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THE
JUVENILE PLUTARCH;
CONTAINING
ACCOUNTS OF THE LIVES OF
CELEBRATED CHILDREN,
AND OF
THE INFANCY OF PERSONS
WHO HAVE BEEN
ILLUSTRIOUS FOR THEIR VIRTUES OR TALENTS

WITH ENGRAVINGS.

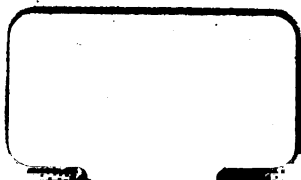


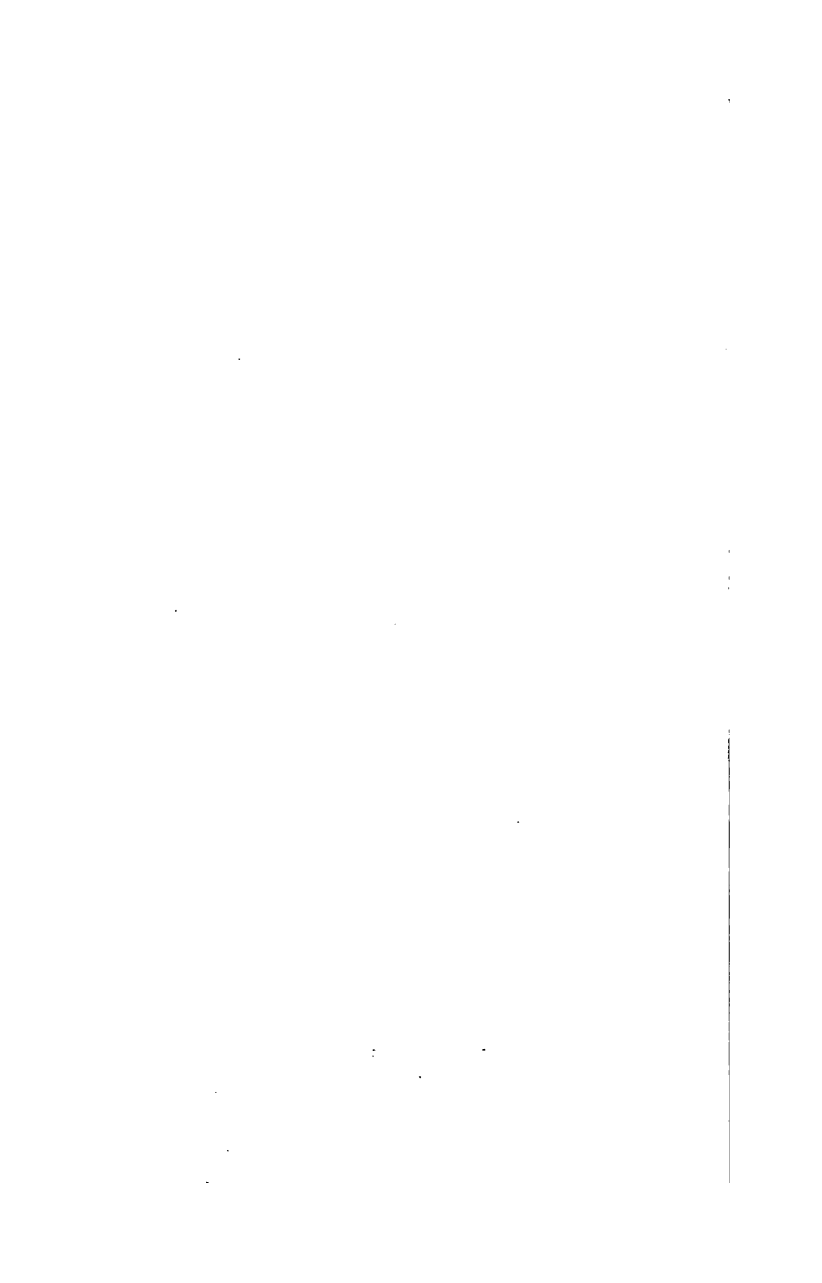
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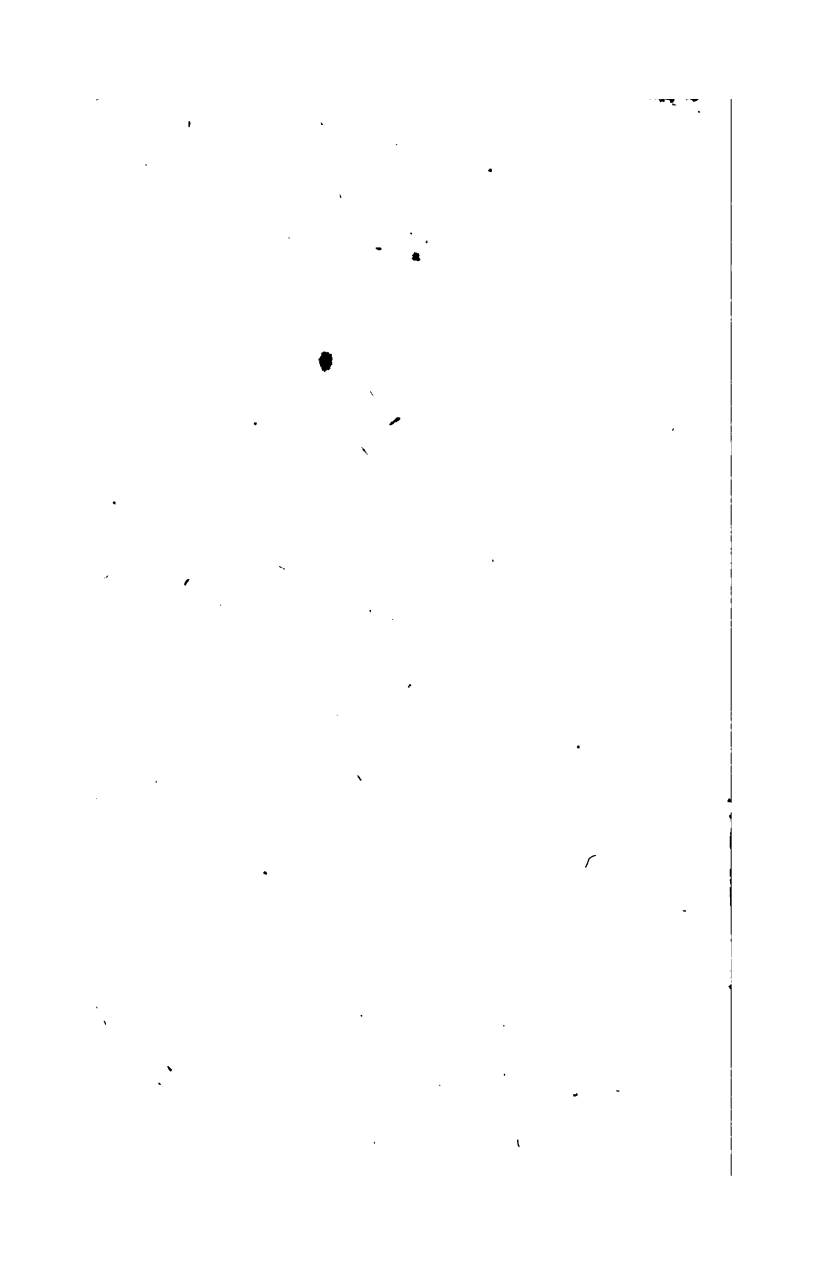
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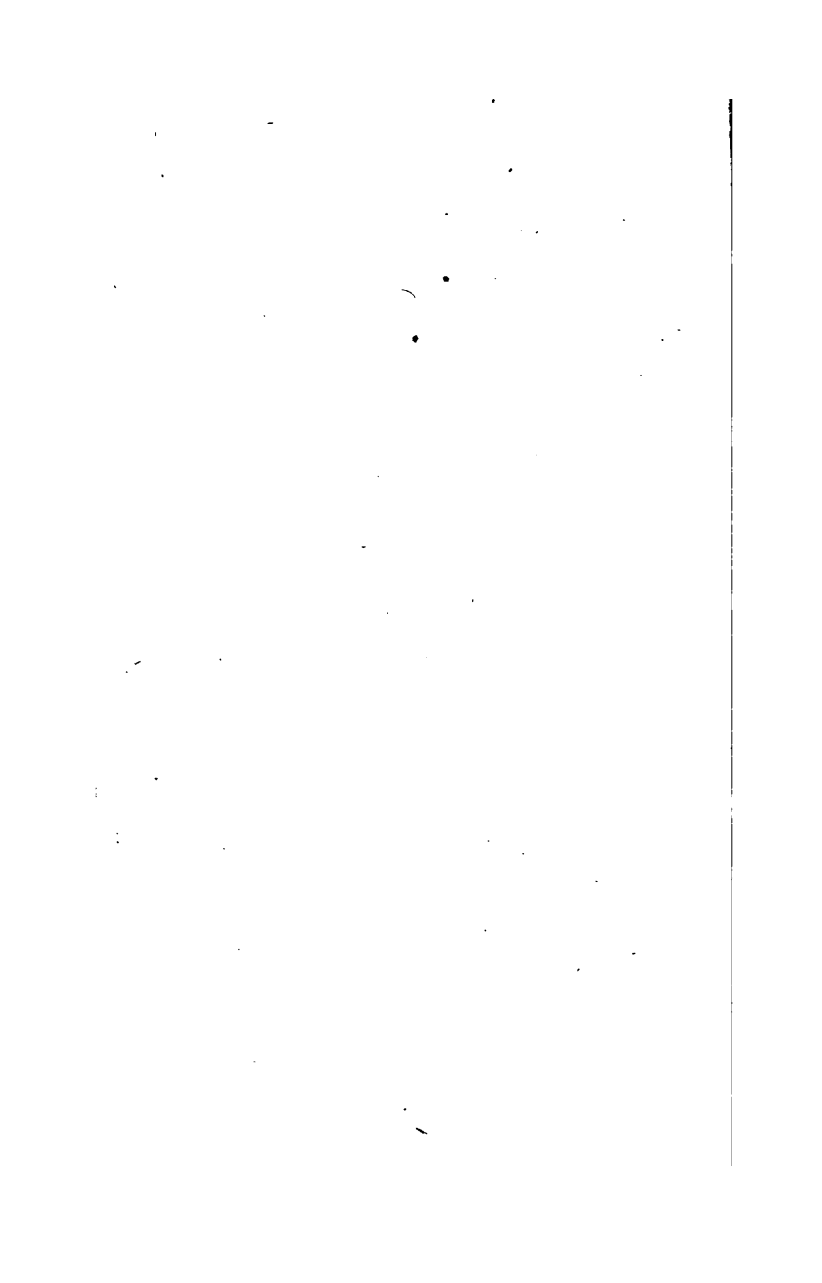




Caroline Hayward.

13 Fayette Place.





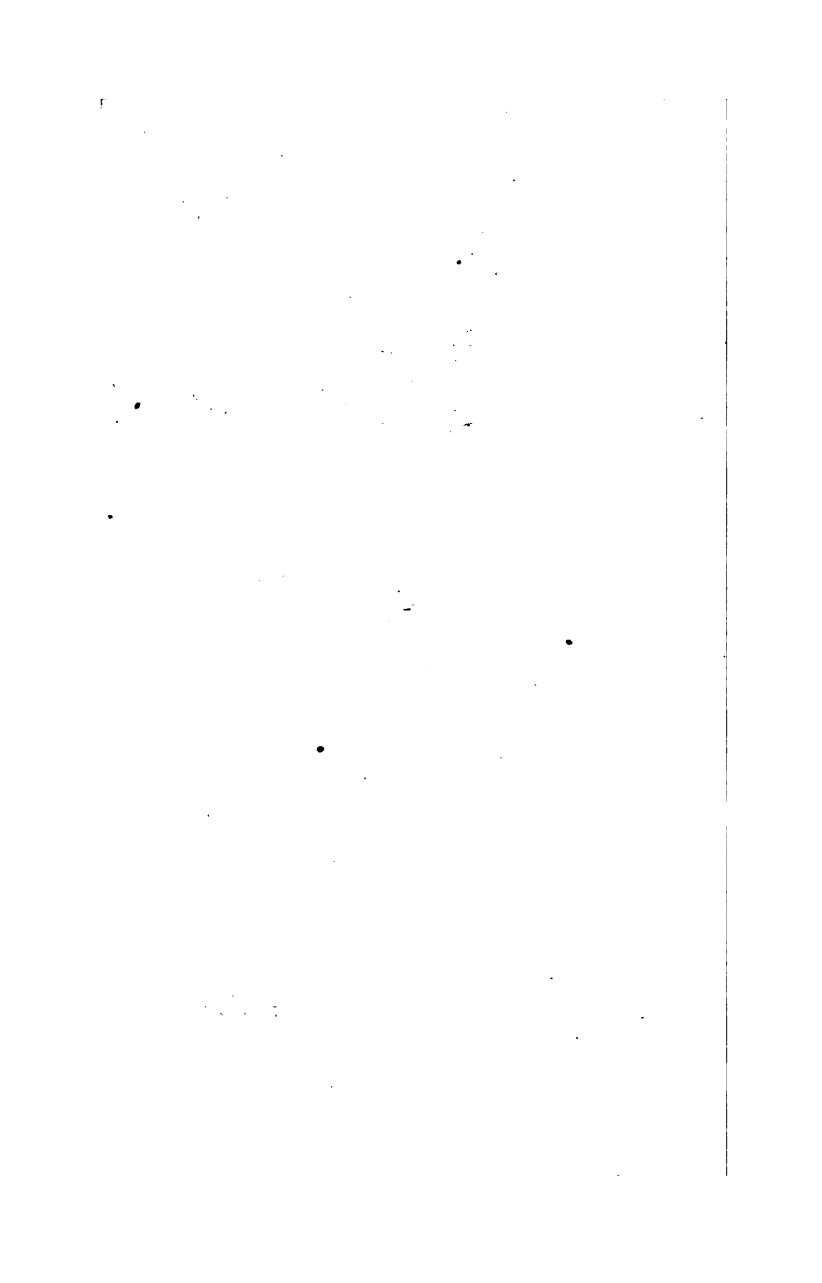


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FRANCES MARIA.



She seized the child by the middle, opened a closet,
and there placed him out of danger.

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THE

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PREFACE.

The great Lord Bacon has justly observed, that " Knowledge drawn fresh, and, as it were in our view, out of particulars, knows the way best to particulars again ; and it hath much greater life for practice, when the discourse attends upon the example, than when the example attends upon the discourse."

History and biography have been too frequently employed in the service of error and vice ; but, by proper management, they may be made equally effectual in the cause of learning, virtue, and religion. Examples of the progress of great and good men in the paths which led them to that glory, which has rendered them objects of admiration to posterity, cannot but excite in the minds of ingenuous youths a desire to imitate them. This was the object of the editor in compiling the following work, in which the examples of early virtue and genius have been selected with care, delineated with exactness, placed in such a point of view, and attended with such remarks, as may best serve to form proper models for the consideration and imitation of young persons of both sexes.

CONTENTS.

Francis Beauchateau	.	.	.
Candiac Montcalm	.	.	.
Edward Sixth	.	.	.
Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam	.	.	.
Lady Jane Grey	.	.	.
Edward, the Black Prince	.	.	.
Blaise Pascal	.	.	.
Peter Gassendi	.	.	.
James Crichton	.	.	.
Hugo Grotius	.	.	.
Abraham Cowley	.	.	.
John Philip Baratier	.	.	.
Valentine Jamerai Duval	.	.	.
Ambrose Boufferr	.	.	.
Frances Maria	.	.	.
Velney Beckner	.	.	.
Jeremiah Horrox	.	.	.
Thomas Garratt	.	.	.
James Hay Beattie	.	.	.
Ann Maria Schurman	.	.	.
Sir William Petty	.	.	.
Colin Maclaurin	.	.	.
John Picus, of Mirandola	.	.	.
Angelo Politianus	.	.	.
Fabius Ursinus	.	.	.
Henry, Prince of Wales	.	.	.
Nicholas Hartsocker	.	.	.
Thomas Williams Malkin	.	.	.
Thomas Gainsborough	.	.	.
John Henderson	.	.	.
Alexander Pope	.	.	.
Jane Ferguson	.	.	.
Mercutio Nelson	.	.	.
John Milton	.	.	.
Anno Bayard	.	.	.

THE
JUVENILE
PLUTARCH.

FRANCIS BEAUCHATEAU.

FRANCIS BEAUCHATEAU, son of a player of the same name, was born at Paris in 1645, and died at sea at the age of fifteen.

He was a most accomplished character, equally excellent in heart and understanding. His father spared nothing that might contribute either to his instruction or the formation of his manners. Although the profession of a player does not always admit of a very regular mode of life, he thought nothing too much for his son, and employed the greater part of his salary in procuring for him the best masters in every department. His wife, who was also a player, did not hesitate to make the same sacrifices. She sold her trinkets, and confined

herself to the most simple dresses, to concur in the designs of her husband. The young pupil fully answered these tender cares, and largely contributed to the happiness of his parents, both by his progress in learning and the amiable qualities of his heart.

Nothing serves more to enlarge the mind, than to adorn the memory with chosen passages, in prose or verse. This method, now too much neglected, was formerly employed with success in the liberal studies. Though somewhat slow of conception, Beauchateau read and wrote tolerably well in his fifth year; and he knew by heart, and recited with correctness, the best of La Fontaine's fables. What so much hastened his progress was, that his masters never gave him a line to learn, without previously explaining to him the literal or figurative sense of the words. He who knows well how to choose his time, and to manage his means, will find himself able to do many things without extraordinary efforts. Though little Francis did not study three hours a day in all, yet in his eighth year he understood the best Greek and Latin authors; he translated them at sight, because he had been taught these difficult languages chiefly by use and by conversation, which save the disgust caused by abstract principles and perplexing rules.

We commonly consider those premature geniuses, who display the knowledge of men

while yet in leading-strings, as phenomena : let us cease to wonder ; patience, and sound principles of education, accomplish every thing, and supply the defects of nature. Like those stony and ungrateful soils, which stubborn labour at length succeeds in rendering fertile, the most unpromising understandings may be formed by assiduous cultivation. With a few exceptions, what has already been learned by one individual, another is equally capable of knowing. Where invention is not the point, nothing but time is necessary ; every thing depends on the method and ability of the masters. The languages are the keys of human knowledge ; he who possesses several of them, possesses also several means of instruction. Besides Greek and Latin, those two bases of the liberal studies, young Beauchateau applied himself to the Spanish and Italian ; and in his eleventh year he was so well versed in these two languages, that he would not have needed an interpreter at Madrid or Florence.

In order to form a complete scholar, it is not sufficient to make a deep and constant study of literature, or to pass much time in reading the best authors ; the pupil ought to try his own powers, and be able to execute in his turn. The instructors of our young scholar did not forget to accustom their pupil to translate a great deal, and to extract the bes

passages from the books he read ; and they exercised him particularly in composing on all sorts of subjects, both in prose and verse.

Versification is a talent too much neglected in education, both public and private. It is, however, very useful in forming the style ; nothing sharpens the wit more, nothing contributes more to give grace, energy, or ingenuity, to the thoughts. By means of turning verses, little Beauchateau learned to make very pretty ones ; and he soon acquired a reputation in this charming art. His poetical pieces equally full of sense, vigour, and fancy, passed from the capital to the provinces ; and it could scarcely be believed that they were the work of a child. Many considerable people, wishing to assure themselves of the truth, invited the father of little Francis to bring his son to them, that they might hear him talk, and judge for themselves of the things that were related of him. Their satisfaction equalled their surprise. They were enchanted, and did not hesitate to allow the superiority of a careful and systematic education, over those superficial and detached notions which too many persons content themselves with giving to youth.

Anne of Austria, the mother of Lewis the Fourteenth, King of France, was desirous of seeing the celebrated child. Having sent for him to the palace, she asked him questions on

various subjects, which he answered with equal ease and precision.

"How is it," asked the princess, "that you can have so much wit and knowledge at your age?"—"O!" replied the young poet, "when we approach the divinities of the earth, and above all beauty, it would be difficult not to have them."

Flattered with the repartee, the queen embraced the child, and dismissed him, loaded with rich presents, among which was a box for sugar-plums, adorned with precious stones.

Cardinal Mazarine, Chancellor Seguier, and many other great persons, used to send for little Beauchateau, and giving him a subject for his muse, shut him up till he had performed his task, which he never failed to do to their satisfaction.

As he began his classical studies very early, and improved with great assiduity the precious moments of youth, at thirteen or fourteen years of age he had scarcely any thing more to learn. It was about this time that he revised his poetical compositions, which were printed, under the title of "The Lyre of the Young Apollo; or, The Muse of Little Beauchateau." They were adorned with the portraits of the distinguished persons whom he had celebrated; and this first edition met with a very rapid sale, since all parents were pleas-

ed to present to their children the works of the young poet, as an encouragement to the love of learning.

Every thing depends on the first impulse given to the mind. Science and information were become of absolute necessity to this illustrious child. The English tongue was not fashionable in France in his time ; yet he applied to it with such ardour, as to understand and to speak it fluently. In order to make himself more perfect in it, he obtained permission of his father to go and spend some months in England ; and he set out with the French ambassador, to whom he had been recommended.

On his arrival at London, Beauchateau was received by persons of rank with the same distinction as he had been at the French court. He was of a slender shape and very little ; and though of a good constitution, at thirteen he did not appear to be more than nine or ten years old : a circumstance which added still more to the reputation of his talents. This uncommon youth was also of an engaging appearance, and the sweetness of his disposition answered to this agreeable advantage of nature. The most noble and beautiful ladies contended for the pleasure of entertaining this delightful child. They sometimes placed him on their knees, where he more than once composed verses full of point and gaiety.

Little Beauchateau was not fourteen at the time of his voyage to England, yet he was at the summit of his reputation. At this period, still animated with the desire of knowledge, he embarked at Plymouth on a voyage to Persia, in company of some learned mathematicians.

It has been insinuated that his motive for taking this voyage was the acquisition of riches : but surely this suspicion is unfounded ; for, if he had felt a passion for wealth, he might have satisfied it in his own country ; since it is certain that offices no less lucrative than easy had been offered to his acceptance.

It is conjectured, with more probability, that this literary phenomenon had the intention of studying the oriental languages ; as he had shown a taste for them from his childhood, and took a pleasure in hearing Turks or Persians converse. However this may be, Beauchateau and his companions put to sea in 1660 ; and the second day after their departure, the ship was overtaken by a dreadful tempest, and foundered. The crew saved themselves with the greatest difficulty. Many persons were drowned in a boat, which sunk ; and it is presumed that the unfortunate child was of this number, for nothing was heard of him afterwards.

Knowledge and abilities are a powerful recommendation ; but they should be free from all affectation, and accompanied by modesty. The possessor should, in some sort, be ignorant of them ; he should devote them with the greatest politeness to the amusement of society, otherwise they will render him disagreeable, and an object of contempt.

The actor, Beauchateau, in procuring a good education for his son, was above all solicitous that he should by no means value himself upon it. Indeed, notwithstanding the various learning and accomplishments of little Beauchateau, he had all the simplicity of other children ; he whipped his top with them, he played in the same manner, and never thought of displaying either his wit or his knowledge.

One day his father took him to dine at the house of a great man, where there were several children of his own age. During a great part of the entertainment the conversation turned on poetry, music, and the Spanish language. Some ladies, more learned than those of our days, quoted certain passages, which raised a dispute on the sources from which they were taken. Though little Francis knew them perfectly well, he took no notice of it, and chatted with the children of his own age. Dinner being ended, music was mentioned, and the young ladies were requested

to touch the harpsichord. They placed themselves, not without a great deal of pressing, at the instrument. After having poorly executed some easy pieces, they were much applauded, and appeared vain of their success. Beauchateau, who played very well, remained quiet by the side of his father, so that the company were far from suspecting that he was able to obtain the same applause as the young ladies. As these things were going on, a famous Italian musician came in. He knew Francis, whom he had frequently seen at concerts, and with whom he loved to speak Italian. "What!" cried he, "you do not play, my friend. Ah, you are a little rogue, to deprive the company of the pleasure of hearing you!" All eyes were then turned on the child, who was confounded with the compliment. He was entreated to sit down to the harpsichord, which he did with the most perfect modesty, accompanying the instrument with several Spanish songs, which he sung with taste and intelligence. When he had done playing, the ladies loaded him with caresses. They then addressed him in Spanish and Italian. He answered them in the same languages; he even spoke of the manners, customs, and government of those countries, in such a manner, that every one was delighted, and knew not which to admire most, such

rare talents, or so much discretion at so tender an age.

The poetry of Beauchateau is distinguished by gaiety and playfulness of fancy. Some verses published in a periodical journal of that time will serve as a specimen of his sportive vein. They were addressed to the daughter of a confectioner, near the college where he studied. Her name was Julia Desormaux, and she was almost as much celebrated for talents as himself.

What conquering charms, fair Julia, wait on thee !

Song, dance, and graceful speech in thee combine ;

To touch thy heart how happy should I be !

Still more to touch thy orange cakes divine !

Sitting one day on the lap of a celebrated English lady of rank at Windsor, she asked him for some verses, on which he made the following impromptu, in French and English :

Placed on your knee, I feel the gods inspire ;

Your charms a thousand lays demand :

But while Apollo tunes my lyre,

My heart is pierced by Cupid's hand.

CANDIAC MONTCALM.

CANDIAC MONTCALM was a younger son of the Marquis de Montcalm, and was born at Candiac, near Nimes, in France, in 1719.

Biographers have been diffuse upon his premature erudition ; but unfortunately they have given us no account of his moral character and disposition. This, however, is what renders a man estimable and valuable in society. Of what importance is the vain enumeration of languages, of plants, of arts, of the history of ancient and modern nations, if all this does not lead us to the knowledge of ourselves, or induce us to promote the happiness of our fellow-creatures ? If we here mention this literary phenomenon, it is merely to excite the emulation of our young readers ; it is to show them that, with pains and application, all kinds of science may be acquired from the tenderest years. The Marquis of Montcalm had received from his father a remarkably excellent education : and to procure a similar one for his son was a point which he had much at heart. He knew, by the experience of all ages, that titles of nobility, fortune, and honours, are transitory benefits, but that talents, knowledge, and wisdom, have

nothing to fear from the caprices of fate, or from the vicissitudes of fortune. Founding his system on this truth, this equally tender and enlightened father procured for his son the best masters that could be found in France ; and he did not hesitate, for this object, to incur that expense which others lavish upon superfluities, in contempt of things both honourable and necessary. Unlike those servile followers of the beaten track, who have neither studied nor reflected, and who believe themselves competent to teach because they teach, the instructors of little Candiac simplified for him, with the utmost clearness, the first elements of the sciences. They presented them to him in so many varied and charming forms, that the pupil never manifested any repugnance to learning.

What we frequently touch, what offers itself to our eyes without study and without constraint, easily impresses itself on our memory. In consequence, it occurred to them to trace, upon cards, the different characters of the alphabet. By comparing them together, young Candiac was able to distinguish them at the age of fifteen months ; it was sufficient to ask him for a B, an X, or a Z, &c. He ran immediately to seek the letter, and brought it joyfully to the person who had asked for it.

This first step being taken, other mens, no

less ingenious, were employed, completely to initiate the young pupil in reading.

Full as is the French language of contradictory rules and difficulties, he advanced in it with a rapid pace. It is even asserted that, at the age of three years, he read and pronounced very well French, Latin, and Greek, whether printed or manuscript. Threats and punishments are unfortunately necessary to make many children study. It was not so with the docile Candiac. Singularly sensible to praise, a kind word, a caress, was sufficient to stimulate his exertions ; and he always performed much more than could be required of him. Such was even his ardour for study, and his insatiable appetite for books, that it was necessary to conceal them from his sight. When he had completed his fourth year, he was instructed in the abstract principles of Latin : and in ten months he was able to construe the lives of Cornelius Nepos, and Justin's Universal History. Besides the ancient languages, he also learned arithmetic, geography, history, geometry, and antiquities. All these sciences became familiar to him in a short time ; his masters could scarcely follow him ; and they were no less astonished at the rapidity of his progress than at the justness of his reasoning. At an age when other children scarcely lisp their alphabet, the son of the Marquis de Montcalm had already perus-

ed, and even made extracts from, historians, orators, philosophers, and grammarians; and his reputation every day increasing, extended far beyond his paternal mansion. Montpelier, Nimes, Uzez, Lyons, Grenoble, Paris itself, paid a just tribute of admiration to so much learning united in so tender a mind. The public papers were filled with flattering accounts of this young phenomenon, and a number of interesting particulars were related of him.

It is with real satisfaction that we have traced the sketch of the studies and literary success of young Candiac; but it would be much increased, had we any particulars to relate concerning his disposition and his moral conduct. Yet, notwithstanding the silence of historians, the life of this illustrious child is perhaps not less interesting in a moral point of view. Can any one have a taste for learning, without uniting to it that sweetness and gentleness of heart, and love of virtue, which so exalted a pursuit naturally tends to excite.

The greater part of men, historians themselves, prize only brilliant talents and the gifts of the understanding. Vain and false estimators of merit! they scarcely deign to mention the inestimable qualities of the heart and the soul. Yet without them, what signifies all the genius in the world? Of what importance is knowledge or fame? A virtuous action, an instance of sensibility, the divine ties of en-

dearing friendship, the mere expression of an affectionate sentiment, are infinitely more valuable than the celebrity acquired by ten triumphs.

This early prodigy, however, only appeared for a moment on the scene of the world : whether it was that an excess of watchfulness and application weakened his health, or that he was born with too delicate a constitution, he was cropped in the bud. But such is the prerogative of the understanding, such is the ascendancy of merit, that they are no more measured by years than the virtues of the heart. The labours of this young scholar have gained him immortal glory ; and though he died in his infancy, fame has not hesitated to assign him a rank amongst celebrated men.

The various knowledge and the reputation of young Candiac attracted to his father's house a crowd of persons, who took pleasure in conversing with him. His father having one day invited five or six scholars of the first rank in learning, the conversation naturally turned upon the sciences. Every one started a question : one in geometry, another on history, another on languages : the timid child was afraid at first, through modesty, to mingle in the conversation ; he contained himself within the bounds of a respectful silence, in presence of men of consummate learning, whom he considered as his masters : but, be

ing invited to speak in his turn, he soon proved that he was no stranger to the profound subjects under consideration ; he even made observations which had escaped the other persons present, and which were little expected from one of his age.

Little Montcalm had an astonishing memory, and geography was not less familiar to him than other things. He again surprised all the company with his knowledge of this subject. Having demanded of the guests the name of their province, and the place of their birth, he took some chalk, and began to trace a map of France upon the floor. When his plan was finished, he showed to every one the spot, the respective situation, the distance, the aspect of his native place ; he mentioned the battles which had been fought there, the rivers which watered it, and the celebrated men to whom it had given birth. He afterwards accompanied this operation with remarks on natural history and antiquities.

A very well informed lady, little dazzled by this vast appearance of learning, imagined that young Candiac was a parrot, who repeated a lesson, and understood nothing but the words. In consequence of this opinion, she put him upon subjects capable of exercising his reason and powers of reflection. Borrowing the language of the dazzled vulgar, she

CANDIAC MONTCALM.



He took some chalk, and began to trace a Map of
France upon the floor.



affected to exalt the conquest of Alexander, and the empire of the Romans ; after which she asked little Montcalm his opinion of them.

“ This is my opinion,” replied he : “ All those famous warriors were only the scourges of the earth. The Tyrians and Carthaginians, who have been so much vilified, appear to me far preferable ; they enriched by commerce those flourishing nations which the others destroyed by arms.”—“ My good friend,” pursued the lady, “ you surely will not be so severe on the conquest of Peru by the Spaniards ; and you cannot refuse a just tribute of admiration to the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus ; for, in fact, the sugar and sweetmeats of St. Domingo are excellent things. What do you think ?”—“ This is a great problem to solve,” replied Candiac, in a serious tone, “ at my age it does not belong to me to decide : however, I do not believe that we have become richer for the gold of Peru, or happier for wants that we knew not before.”

Charmed with the propriety and good sense of his answers, the lady took the child in her arms, and looking at the Marquis of Montcalm, she exclaimed : “ What an honour, what a comfort, for a father to have a son so well informed and well educated ! Ah ! could I procure such a son, though at the expense

of my whole fortune, I should think myself rich enough with such a treasure !”

A complication of disorders carried off this promising child at the age of seven years, October 8, 1726.

EDWARD THE SIXTH,

KING OF ENGLAND.

This excellent prince was the only son of Henry the Eighth, by Lady Jane Seymour, and was born at Hampton Court, October 12, 1537, the queen his mother dying the day after. His tutors were Dr. Cox and Sir John Cheke, under whom he made a very rapid progress in the languages, and other parts of learning. He also displayed a remarkable sweetness of disposition, and a great regard for virtue and religion even in his most tender years.

At the age of nine he succeeded his father, who by his will left him and the kingdom under the guardianship of sixteen persons of high distinction. The reformation which had been begun by Henry, was carried on with more consistency and sincerity under Edward, who

was firmly settled in the doctrines of the Protestant religion.

In his reign, the principles of civil and religious liberty were but little understood ; yet Edward possessed more generous and enlarged sentiments with respect to the rights of conscience, than the most grave and learned men of his age : for when one Joan Bocher was condemned to be burnt, for maintaining some notions in religion contrary to the established faith, the young king repeatedly refused to sign the death warrant. Archbishop Cranmer, otherwise a mild and pious man, urged him by many arguments ; and having at last prevailed over his resolution, Edward emphatically told him, with tears in his eyes, that "if he did wrong, the guilt should lie on his head."

The virtues of his heart were equalled by the accomplishments of his mind. He was well acquainted with the Greek and Latin languages, and could converse fluently, and with considerable ingenuity, in French, Italian, and Spanish. The principles of natural philosophy and mathematics, as far as they were then understood and explained, were familiar to him ; so that, when the celebrated Cardan was introduced to him, he entered into a long conversation with him on the subject of comets ; concerning which he had much juster notions than that ingenious mathematician. Of

this Cardan has given us an account in one of his books. "He was but fifteen years of age," says that famous man, "when I waited on him : yet he spoke Latin, both as to readiness and phraseology, as well as myself. He asked me what was the subject of my book *De Rerum Varietate*, 'concerning the variety of things,' which I had dedicated to His Majesty. I told him, that in the first chapter I had explained the nature of comets. He asked me what the cause of them was. I told him, that when the light of the planets happened to meet and centre, they produced this appearance. The king objected, that these stars had different motions ; and therefore it would follow that the comets must vary in their figure and motion according to the revolution of the planets, and their different situations from each other.

He afterwards pushed some other objections against Cardan's visionary notion, and completely puzzled the philosopher, according to his own account. Cardan, however, had the candour to acknowledge the high merits of this excellent prince, although he had no expectations from him : and he concludes a long panegyric, by saying, that "his description rather falls short of matter of fact, than exceeds it ; and that the young king had such parts, and was of such expectation, that he looked like a miracle of a man."

Edward employed his time to the best of purposes. He made the improvement of his mind his greatest pleasure ; and being born to govern a powerful nation, he applied himself, with indefatigable care and attention, to such studies as might render him most useful in his high station.

He made himself acquainted with the state of his kingdom, and kept a book in which he recorded the characters and public actions of the principal persons in the nation. He regarded chiefly such as were distinguished by their virtuous conduct, eminent talents, and religious principles. He had a competent knowledge of geography ; and knowing the value of trade and commerce to a kingdom so situated as England, he greatly encouraged mercantile men and navigators, who, under his protection, made many voyages, and explored unknown seas and countries, which afterwards proved of considerable importance to this country.

His mental abilities were displayed in a discourse concerning Faith, in Latin, which he addressed to his uncle, the Duke of Somerset ; and in a history or diary of his own times, which, with his letters, are still existing, and prove beyond all doubt the extraordinary qualifications and transcendent virtues of this excellent prince.

He possessed too exalted a mind to form low connexions, or to bestow his favours upon unworthy favourites. His pleasures were of the purest kind ; and his only ambition was to be virtuous and to do good. Yet the piety of Edward was cheerful, and unmixed with bigotry. He was pleasant and affable in his deportment ; and indulged himself in such amusements and exercises as were suited to his age and rank, particularly music, in which agreeable science he excelled.

His attendance on public worship was constant, and he paid particular attention to the sermons which were preached before him. Of many of these he took notes for his private consideration and advantage. He knew that religion must be attended to, as well when we are alone as when we are at church ; and that if we would do our duty and please God, we must regard his service and his word in private as well as in public.

Good King Edward, though placed on a throne, and surrounded with pomp, and pleasure, and flattery, found more comfort and real pleasure in enlarging his mind with valuable knowledge, than in the treasures and splendour of a kingdom ; and he experienced the truth of what the wisest of kings said in his proverbs : " Wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

He was also very-assiduous and zealous to do good. Till his time, the condition of the poor in London was very deplorable ; and it was much worse after the dissolution of the monasteries, in many of which the sick, infirm, and destitute, found comfort and relief.

Bishop Ridley, who was burnt in the succeeding reign, happening to preach before the king, dwelt very pathetically, in his sermon, upon the duty of charity, and recommended to the consideration of the great, the miserable condition of the poor. After the service, his majesty sent for the bishop, and, having given him thanks for his excellent discourse, desired him to form a scheme for the permanent maintenance of the poor in London. The bishop accordingly consulted with the lord mayor and aldermen ; the result of which was, that the king founded that noble institution of Christ's hospital, for the support and education of orphans ; St. Thomas's and St. Bartholomew's hospitals for the sick ; and Bridewell for the correction of the vicious and profligate.

This inestimable prince, whose rare qualifications and shining virtues promised him to be a blessing to this nation, died of a consumption at Greenwich, in 1553, aged sixteen years.

FRANCIS BACON,

LORD VERULAM.

FRANCIS BACON, a great lawyer and statesman, but a much greater philosopher, was the son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, lord keeper of the great seal, which is the same office of that of lord chancellor of England.

The son was born at York-house, in the Strand, in 1561, and in his infancy showed signs of a happy genius and strong judgment. When he was but a child, he was introduced to Queen Elizabeth, who asked him how old he was ; to which he answered, " that he was two years younger than her majesty's happy reign ;" for the queen was crowned in 1559. This fine compliment gave so much satisfaction to that discerning queen, that she bestowed many marks of her royal favour upon Mr. Bacon, whom she used to call her " young lord-keeper."

But the dazzling splendours of a court, and the smiles of his sovereign, did not entice him from his studies. His progress in learning was so great, that at the age of twelve years he was sent to the university of Cambridge, where he had for his tutor Dr. Whitgift, who was afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. Under this

learned and pious divine, he applied to his books with such uncommon diligence, that before he was sixteen years old he had gone through the whole circle of the liberal arts and sciences as they were then taught; besides making a great proficiency in the learned languages and divinity.

His father, the lord-keeper, discovering in his son such a ripeness of judgment and virtue, as well as of knowledge, resolved to send him, young as he was, to France, that he might gain an acquaintance with affairs of state. He was accordingly committed to the care of Sir Amias Pawlet, the English ambassador at Paris; and so well did he conduct himself in that situation, as to be sent to England with a commission of importance to the queen, which required both secrecy and despatch. He executed this honourable trust with such applause, as gained both him and the ambassador great credit. Our young statesman then returned to France, where he applied himself not only to his studies, but cultivated the friendship of men of learning, and made many useful observations upon public affairs, as appears from a succinct view of the state of Europe, which he wrote when he was only nineteen.

But while he was thus honourably improving himself abroad in such pursuits as might best answer the expectations entertained of

him, the sudden death of his father recalled him to England, where, finding that his portion, owing to the largeness of the family, was but small, he resolved to make the law his profession. He accordingly entered himself a student of Gray's Inn, where, in his twenty-eighth year, he became reader to the society ; that is, read lectures upon profound questions in the law. About the same time, he was also appointed queen's counsel, but did not receive any substantial preferment or distinction till the reign of King James the First, when he passed through the offices of solicitor and attorney general, and, finally, that of chancellor, on which occasion he was made a viscount. He died at Highgate in 1626. His fame for universal learning was so extensive, that in his last illness a French nobleman, of very high distinction, went to pay him a visit, and finding him in bed, with the curtains drawn, " You resemble," said the Marquis, " the angels ; we hear those heavenly beings constantly talked of, and we believe them superior to mankind, but we never have the consolation of seeing them."—" If the charity of others," replied the dying philosopher, " compare me to an angel, my own infirmities tell me I am but a man !"

In the midst of his professional employments, and the fatiguing engagements of state affairs, this great man applied to his studies

with unremitted ardour. He was the first who discarded a slavish adherence to theory and hypothesis in philosophy, and laid it down as a maxim, "that in the study of nature we should always proceed, not upon conjecture and theory, but upon experiment alone!"

LADY JANE GREY.

MANY illustrious instances are recorded of female genius; and nothing can be conceived more amiable than a union of mental and personal charms. Beauty alone may please at first sight, but it will cease to afford admiration, unless it is adorned by the accomplishments of an improved understanding, and animated by a lively virtue and a rational piety. In all these graces the unfortunate Lady Jane Grey was pre-eminently distinguished. She was the daughter of Henry, Marquis of Dorset, and afterwards Duke of Suffolk, by Frances Brandon, niece of Henry the Eighth. From her infancy she exhibited such a remarkable quickness of understanding and love of learning, as have rendered her a prodigy of her sex and age.

She was not only accomplished in needle-

work, fair-hand writing, and music, but possessed an uncommon knowledge of the learned languages.

Her parents were haughty and austere in their conduct towards her ; so that her studies proved a sweet retreat from the restraint and severity with which she was treated.

The celebrated Ascham, one of the most learned men of his time, and tutor to Queen Elizabeth, paid her a visit when she was but fourteen years old, at her father's house in Leicestershire. He found, on his arrival, the rest of the family engaged in hunting the deer in the park ; but Lady Jane, regardless of their amusements, was in her room reading the *Phædon* of Plato in Greek. Mr. Ascham expressed his surprise at seeing so young a lady engaged upon an ancient book, while there was so much diversion in the park ; to whom she answered, with a sweetness peculiar to herself, that she found more pleasure in reading Plato than in all those amusements. She also spoke with the greatest affection of her tutor, Mr. Aylmer, who, by the gentleness of his manner, rendered his instructions a delight rather than a task.

She was able at this time, not only to read but to write Latin and Greek with facility and elegance. She was also acquainted with the French and Italian languages ; and in her conversation she discovered a solid judgment

LADY JANE GREY.



She found more pleasure in reading Plato, than in all those amusements.

D



joined with a pleasing simplicity of manner and affability of behaviour to all around her. She was also well grounded in the principles of the Christian religion ; and no efforts could induce her to renounce the protestant faith, in which she had been educated.

At the age of sixteen she was married to Lord Guilford Dudley, son of the Duke of Northumberland ; a union which proved fatal to both these amiable and illustrious persons.

The ambition of their parents led them to prevail upon King Edward the Sixth, to leave his crown, by his last will, to Lady Jane Grey ; thus cutting off the succession of his two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth. On his death, which was only two months after this marriage, the Duke of Suffolk, accompanied by the Duke of Northumberland, repaired to Durham-house, where the young couple resided, and there both these noblemen fell on their knees, and, paying homage to the astonished Lady Jane, informed her of the rank to which she was elevated. Instead of being dazzled and enraptured with this unexpected intelligence, she burst into tears, and pleaded, with powerful but ineffectual eloquence, the superior right of the two princesses. She pointed out with energy the danger of the step, as well as its injustice, but in vain : the two dukes were infatuated, and they called to their assistance the entreaties and per-

suasions of Lord Guildford, her husband. Overcome by the force of parental authority, and the more endearing arguments of a beloved partner, Lady Jane consented to become a queen. But, alas ! her royal career lasted only nine days. The people were displeased with both the dukes, who had more regard to their own ambitious views than to the public welfare, in the alteration of the succession. The cause of Mary was no sooner openly avowed, than it met with general approbation. Lady Jane willingly resigned the royal robes, which she had so reluctantly consented to wear. The Duke of Northumberland was condemned and beheaded ; but Suffolk, though imprisoned, was soon after restored to his liberty. He had, however, the heart-rending agony to see his virtuous, amiable, and pious daughter, with her husband, suffer on the scaffold, the sad victims of his unjust ambition.

The privy council having resolved to put this ill-fated but innocent couple to death, notice of it was sent to them in the Tower where they were separately confined. Lady Jane received the dismal tidings with her accustomed mildness and religious resignation. She neither murmured against the sentence, nor complained of those who had brought her into this dreadful situation.

Queen Mary, a blind bigot to the Romish

religion, and as superstitious as she was cruel, sent persons to the unfortunate young lady, to persuade her to change her religion. But Lady Jane had not cultivated her mind in vain. Her principles were those of truth and conviction. She defended them with strength and firmness, yet, with meekness and Christian charity. The evening before her death she wrote a letter in the Greek language to her sister, Lady Catherine Grey, and at the same time she sent to her a Greek Testament.

On the fatal morning, her husband desired to see her before he went to the scaffold. But she prudently declined; alleging as her reason for refusing his tender request, that the interview would overcome them. She, however, gave him a parting token from her window as he passed; and she possessed sufficient courage to behold his dear remains brought back; on which occasion she wrote three sentences in Greek, Latin, and English. in her memorandum book; which she presented to the lieutenant of the Tower. Her turn being now come, she ascended the scaffold with a composed countenance and an unshaken firmness; and having addressed the spectators in a calm but pathetic speech, in which she expressed her willingness to die, she laid her head upon the block, and receiv-

ed the fatal stroke, February 12, 1554. So fell, without any guilt of her own, the all-accomplished and most exemplary Lady Jane Grey, at the age only of seventeen, deserving of a better fate ; and though she wore not the crown, which was so imprudently and unjustly obtained for her, yet she will ever be remembered as a model of female excellence, and doubtless her virtues procured for her "a crown of unfading lustre in the kingdom of heaven, which passeth not away."

EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES,

COMMONLY CALLED

THE BLACK PRINCE.

THIS gallant hero, whose name has descended with lustre to our times, and will continue to be gloried in by Englishmen to distant ages, was the eldest son of King Edward III., and born in 1330. He was trained to deeds of arms from his childhood, and distinguished himself by his military prowess so early as to receive the honours of knighthood at the age of fifteen. He accompanied his father in his expedition against France ; and

at the famous battle of Cressy, in 1346, he was placed at the head of the first line of the English army, in which situation he fought with uncommon valour, though opposed by superior numbers. Being hard pressed by the French, a messenger was sent to request succour of the king, who was posted on a hill, where he anxiously contemplated the bravery and conduct of his son. Edward inquired if the prince was unhurt and maintained his ground; and on being answered in the affirmative, "Go," said he, "tell him that I leave the glory of this day entirely to him; that I trust he will show himself worthy of the knighthood with which he has been honoured." The prince, on receiving his father's mandate, redoubled his efforts, routed the French in all directions, and remained master of the field of battle. When the victory was won, the king hastened to his arms, and bestowed upon him the highest praises. It was on this occasion that the prince assumed as his crest the plume of feathers, with the motto of *Ich dien*, or *I serve*, which had belonged to the King of Bohemia, who was slain in the battle. This crest and the motto have continued attached to the arms of the Princes of Wales ever since.

In 1355, this brave youth defeated John, King of France, near Poitiers. The French

monarch, being taken prisoner, was conducted to the tent of the prince, who went out to meet him with every expression of sympathy and respect. He also caused a repast to be served up; at which he waited behind the king, whom he treated rather as his master than his captive: and all the other prisoners experienced the prince's humanity and generosity in the most distinguished manner. Thus do truly heroic minds always blend benevolence with courage, and soften the calamities of war with acts of kindness and condescension.

Edward conveyed the French king to England, and they made their entry into London together, the monarch royally dressed, and the prince riding by his side on a palfrey as his attendant.

The appellation of the Black Prince was given to this renowned warrior, who was the darling of the English nation, on account of the colour of his armour. He died of a consumption in 1376, leaving an only son, who became king by the title of Richard the Second.

HUGO GROTIUS.

Few names on the roll of learning are entitled to greater reverence than that of the illustrious Grotius. His works not only display the profoundness of his erudition and the strength of his genius, but they have been found of abundant service to the best interests of mankind. They have had the effect of abridging the contentions of nations, as well as of improving the minds of individuals.

This great man was born at Delft, in Holland, in 1583. His father, John Grotius, or de Grot, was a burgomaster of that city, and curator of the university of Leyden. Hugo came into the world with the happiest dispositions. Nature had bestowed upon him great penetration, a solid judgment, and a wonderful memory. His father, who was a man of virtue and learning, omitted nothing that could contribute to the cultivation of these good qualities. He became his first tutor, and gave equal attention to the forming his understanding and his heart. His intention was rather to make him a good than a learned man ; but he had the unspeakable satisfaction of seeing his son unite both qualities, and to be universally esteemed for his talents and his virtues.

At the age of eight years Grotius gave striking proofs of his progress in learning, by some elegiac verses in Latin, which induced his father to place him under Mr. Utengobard, a celebrated divine, at the Hague. At the age of twelve years he was removed to the university of Leyden, where he had the learned Francis Junius for his tutor.

This worthy man presented him to the renowned Joseph Scaliger, the ornament of that university, and famous throughout the whole world. That learned man conversed with him a considerable time, and was so astonished at his prodigious capacity and attainments, that he condescended to direct his studies. Young Grotius showed himself worthy of the lessons of so great a master. A year after his arrival at the university, he maintained public theses in mathematics, philosophy, and law, with general applause. Hence we may judge with what assiduity he pursued his studies; he spent part of the night in them; for his ardour was such, that he never found the day long enough. The motto he adopted, *Hora ruit*, shows that he had reflected on the "swiftness of time," and the necessity of "employing it well."

So vigorous and constant an application gained him an infinite stock of learning. His reputation spread every where, and the most learned men spoke of him in their works as a

phænomenon of erudition. At the early age of fourteen, he ventured to form plans which required an amazing extent of knowledge : and he executed them in such perfection, that the literary world was struck with astonishment. But as he did not publish these works till after his return from France, we shall defer giving an account of them till we have first spoken of his journey thither. He had a strong inclination to see that kingdom ; and accordingly he took the opportunity of the Dutch ambassador's (Barneveldt) going thither on an extraordinary mission.

On his arrival at Paris, our learned youth found he was advantageously known there before. He was sought after by all men of letters, and by several persons of high distinction. In particular, Mr. Buzanval, who had been ambassador in Holland, where he had formed an acquaintance with him, now introduced him to the king, who was Henry IV. That great prince received him very graciously ; and, as a mark of his esteem, presented him with his picture suspended to a gold chain.

Grotius, while at Paris, was created doctor of laws ; and, after seeing the most distinguished persons for their rank and learning, returned to Holland extremely well pleased with his journey.

On our author's return to his own country, while the study of law and poetry employ-

ed one part of his time, he spent the other in publishing the works which he had prepared for the press. The first he gave to the world was an edition of Martianus Capella. This is one of those obscure writers who are commonly not read till we have nothing else to learn. The title of his work is "On the Union between Mercury and Philology." The style is remarkably perplexed, and the subjects treated, almost unintelligible. John Grotius getting possession of the manuscript, put it into the hands of Scaliger, who desired the son to study it, and publish a new edition.

Though Grotius was then only fourteen, the difficulty of the undertaking did not discourage him: he read all the works that had relation to the matters treated of by Capella, and at last acquitted himself of the task laid upon him by Scaliger with such ability and success as astonished the learned world.

This work appeared in 1599; and men of the greatest name expressed their surprise to see a child of about fifteen produce that which would have done honour to the greatest scholars of the age.

The same year Grotius translated into Latin a book which discovered as much knowledge of the abstract sciences in particular, as the edition of Capella did of his learning in general. This was a Treatise on Navigation, by Stevinus, one of the greatest mathematicians

of his time. Grotius dedicated his translation to the republic of Venice. The original was the standard book of all officers in the navy; and Grotius, who was sensible of its great value and importance to all maritime nations, thought he could not do a more useful or acceptable service than by translating it into a language universally understood. In order to do the work justice by a faithful version, he was obliged to study astronomy, which is one of the principal foundations of navigation. By this means he acquired a partiality for that sublime science, and he read carefully several astronomical works, particularly that written in Greek verse by Aratus, above two hundred years before our Saviour. It contains the celestial phenomena, with the figures of the constellations, according to the ancient astronomers, and is remarkable for being quoted by St. Paul in his famous sermon at Athens, recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.

Grotius found this work so very curious, that he translated it into Latin, and published it in 1600. It was received with the greatest applause, and was celebrated by many learned men as a most extraordinary production. Among others who paid the just tribute of respect to Grotius on this occasion, was the eminent Justus Lipsius, who, in his letter to him,

says, "That notwithstanding his childhood, he regards him as his friend; and congratulates him that though so very young, he had, by the force of genius and industry, accomplished what few could do in the flower and vigour of their age."

Our philosopher was yet but eighteen years of age, and had already acquired as much glory as the most famous scholars. He was reckoned a prodigy of learning, and had made a great progress in various sciences. Perhaps no one would have thought that such a genius, engaged in abstract and profound studies, could be susceptible of the charms of polished composition, and the beauties of poetry. He had, indeed, made some verses in his infancy, which were much admired; but it was apprehended that the deep study of ancient authors, to which he devoted himself, had destroyed this early fire of his imagination.

It therefore surprised all men of letters when he published some elegant Latin poems, particularly the *Prosopopœia*, in which he describes pathetically the siege of Ostend. Public fame ascribed at first this piece to Scaliger, who was considered as the first poet of that period. The learned Peiresk put the question to that great man, who made answer, that he was too old to keep up an intercourse with the Muses; and that this admirable po-

ism was not written by him, but by Grotius, a most ingenious and accomplished youth.

These juvenile productions of his muse were thought so excellent, that several persons, especially the celebrated Malherbe, translated them into French verse, and the learned Casaubon into Greek.

This success animated Grotius to further exertions, and he accordingly wrote a Latin tragedy, called *Adamus Exul*; and another entitled *Christus Patiens*. This last was translated into English verse by George Sandys, and was greatly admired. The subject of his third piece was the story of Joseph, which the accurate Vossius pronounced to be the most perfect thing of its kind that had ever appeared.

Amidst all these literary pursuits, he did not neglect those studies which were necessary to the profession of an advocate, for which he was destined: and he made so great a progress, that at the age of seventeen he pleaded his first cause at Delft with the greatest reputation.

His abilities were now so highly esteemed, that the United Provinces appointed him their historiographer. Several great persons had used their interest to obtain this honourable situation; and among the rest Baudius, the famous professor of eloquence at Leyden. The States, however, thought proper to prefer Gro-

tius; and it deserves notice, that Baudius himself approved of their choice; a circumstance highly honourable to the candour and generosity of the professor, and to the pre-eminent talents of his youthful competitor.

In 1667 he was nominated to the important office of advocate general for the provinces of Holland and Zealand.

The year following he married a lady of distinction, and who has rendered herself celebrated for her connubial virtue and heroism.

Grotius went on to render his country service by his abilities in his profession, and the glory of his literary works.

But in 1609 he became obnoxious to the States General, for espousing the cause of Arminius, a learned professor and divine of Leyden, who publicly opposed the rigid doctrine of predestination, which then prevailed in the Low Countries.

This religious dispute was carried to such a height, that the Arminians, as they were named, were persecuted; and Barneveldt, a virtuous statesman, who took their part, was beheaded. Grotius, his friend, was sentenced to perpetual imprisonment, because he would not believe an absurd doctrine.

He was sent to the castle of Louvestein, and only his wife was allowed to visit him. In this melancholy situation he called philosophy to his aid, and it gave his mind that sweet con-

tent which renders a man superior to the greatest adversity. He devoted himself to the study of the sublimest truths, and laid the foundation of his immortal work on the Truth of the Christian Religion.

While he was thus employed, his wife was engaged in attempts to procure his liberty. After trying various expedients, she happily hit on one which succeeded. Grotius had been allowed to borrow books, which, when he had done with them, were carried away in a chest. At first, this chest was searched as it was carried out of the castle ; but at length the guards were so accustomed to it, that they omitted this formality. Grotius's wife took advantage of this negligence. She caused some air holes to be bored in the side of the chest, and made her husband get into it. In this manner he was conveyed out of the castle ; but one of the soldiers who carried it, finding it heavier than usual, said, "There must be an Arminian in it ;" to which Madam Grotius replied coolly, "That indeed there were some Arminian books in it." When the chest was brought out of the castle, it was put into a boat, and conveyed to the house of a friend. Grotius then got out, and removed out of the territories of his enemies. In the mean time, his wife was kept in close confinement ; but at last she obtained her liberty.

Grotius went to France, where he was received in a manner due to his extraordinary merit. He was afterwards invited to the court of Sweden ; and in 1635 was sent ambassador from thence to Paris, which important office he discharged with high satisfaction to his employers.

This great man died at Rostock, on his journey to Lubeck, August 29, 1645. Finding his end drawing nigh, he desired to see a clergyman : one accordingly came, who, not knowing him, put such questions as were usual to the most ordinary persons. Grotius, to cut short this mode of exhortation, said to him, "I am Grotius."—"What !" answered the minister in astonishment, "are you the GREAT GROTIUS ?" Soon afterwards he expired. His works are universally known, and will last for ever.

FRANCES MARIA.

FRANCES MARIA, of Rochebeaucour, was born in Angoumois, in France, in 1752.

Nature, who has granted to man the gifts of genius and deep thinking, ability to invent, and force to execute, seems to have compensated

his companion by gifts no less valuable ; gentleness of disposition, patience, self-command, courage, sensibility, prudence, activity, and regularity of conduct. This last quality is, above all, a prerogative which cannot be refused to a sex worthy on so many accounts of love and respect.

With what aptness, too, is woman endowed from her tender years ! Are not young girls daily seen to conduct a house, to watch over the details of house-keeping, to manage their little brothers and sisters, to supply, in a word, the loss of their parents, at an age when great boys are capable of no service, and only think of amusing themselves ? Frances Maria perfectly confirms these observations. She was the daughter of a tax-gatherer of Rochebeaucour, in Angoumois. Her father was possessed of no fortune, but he was a worthy man, a good husband, and a good father. Though he had received only a common education, as he did not want good sense, he brought up his child much better than the children of the rich inhabitants of great cities are often educated. He had remarked that Frances was of a gentle but decided temper, repugnant to all remonstrances delivered with severity : in consequence, he made use of no other methods of management than those of kindness, caresses, and sentiment, and he saw himself no less respected than beloved by her.

His wife was far from showing the sense and tender cares of her husband. She affected great love for her daughter, but this love was unequal and unenlightened. Whimsical, capricious, hasty to excess, unreasonable in her demands, and ready to take offence, she was perpetually chiding Maria for mere trifles. On occasions when she ought to have reprov- ed her daughter, she manifested a tenderness, of which the little girl could not divine the reason: when it would have been right to have encouraged her, she overwhelmed her with menaces and harsh treatment, which disgusted the good father, and soured the mind of the child. Thus thwarted in his dearest affections, but irresolute, and desirous of preserving peace in his house, the father concealed within his heart a secret grief. He fell ill, and died in the arms of his afflicted daughter. His wife did not long survive him; and left behind her a little boy of eighteen months old, with Frances, then aged eleven years.

The father of the young orphan was rich only in virtues; he left no inheritance to his daughter but some old furniture, and a little cottage situated on the skirts of a wood. Frances retired with her little brother to this wild asylum. The wretched have neither relations nor friends! She saw herself deserted, and was soon reduced to poverty. Some husbandmen in the neighbourhood, however, wished

her to keep their geese and sheep ; but her attachment to her little brother prevented her from accepting the office, and she resolved to attempt and to suffer every thing rather than abandon him.

In this urgent necessity Maria sold some of her effects, and with the money she bought flax and cotton. From the age of seven years she had been able to make a pair of men's stockings in two days. This habit of employment was of great assistance to her ; and she set herself to spinning, sewing, and knitting, alternately. As she was not less active than skilful, she thus provided for her subsistence, and preserved her independence.

Industry and virtue naturally command the esteem of men ; and when we no longer stand in need of them, they offer us their services. A girl of twelve years old, living alone in a poor cottage, providing for herself, and taking care of an infant brother as if he had been her child, was a sight equally unusual and affecting. Accordingly her reputation soon spread abroad. Every body ran from the neighbouring districts to see her, and work was eagerly brought to her. The mothers particularly made it a pleasure to bring their children thither. "Come," said they, "and see a girl of twelve years old who conducts herself like a woman of thirty, and passes her time in providing food for her little brother."

Plenty, the fruit of industry, insensibly began to reign in the cottage of Frances ; she was even enabled to take a good old woman to live with her, who kept the house and took care of her brother whilst she went with her work to the neighbouring villages. Passing her days in innocence and peace, nothing could have been wanting to the happiness of this virtuous child, had her father still been with her.

Afflicting recollections continually offered themselves to her mind, and spread a gloom over her thoughts. During the hours of the night, and throughout the day, she felt a dreadful void around her. "Dear friend of my childhood," she repeated, "why are you not with your beloved daughter? With what pleasure should I consecrate to you the product of my labours! O, how it would delight me to return the cares which you lavished on me in my childhood! No, no, no; never shall I be consoled for so cruel a loss; nothing can make me amends!"

Divided between her attention to her brother, and the tender recollection of her beloved father, the good Frances had already passed three years in her solitude.

Surpassing others no less in the advantages of person than those of the mind, she was of a size and strength much above her age, and her beauty was equal to the amiable qualities

of her heart. Some of the richest farmers demanded her in marriage, and would have esteemed themselves happy to have obtained her without a dowry : but they were all very young ; and Frances, with a prudence by no means common, dismissed them, preferring a tradesman of a middle age, with a moderate property, because, as she said, he might supply the place of a father to her brother and herself, and assist her in acquiring the experience that she stood in need of.

It was the middle of a severe winter, and the prudent girl waited for the spring, to unite her lot with that of the happy man for whom she destined her heart and her lovely person. But, alas ! she was prevented in her design by a fatal accident. For five weeks the earth had been covered with snow ; the wolves wandered through the fields in troops ; they boldly entered the towns, and even men, when unarmed, became their victims. One morning, as Frances was drawing some bread from the oven, a wolf, followed by five whelps, burst into the room. She instantly seized a knotty stick, and defended herself with such courage, that she would certainly have saved her life had she thought only of herself ; but while she was encountering the savage beast, she perceived a second enemy advancing towards her brother. Then, uttering a cry of terror, she seized the child by the middle,

opened a closet, and there placed him out of danger ; but whilst the courageous girl supported herself with one hand, and endeavoured with the other to repulse the voracious animals, the furious wolf sprung at her throat, and suffocated her instantly. The good old woman, flying to implore assistance, was also seized and torn in pieces.

Thus died, in her fifteenth year, this young woman, who so well deserved a better fate. Who can refuse their tears ? The true model of filial piety, of courage, and fraternal affection, inspired with virtue, with sentiment, and grace, who better deserved to have lived and become the mother of a family, than she who fulfilled so well the sacred duties of one without the title ? Her brother was living in 1796, and from him these interesting particulars were received.

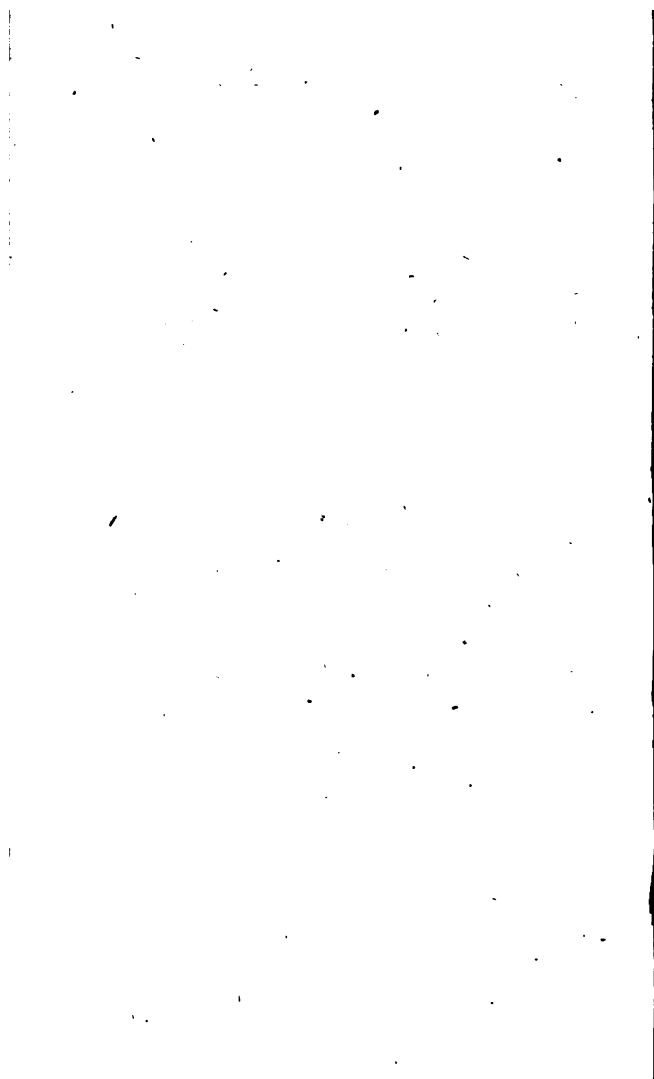
BLAISE PASCAL.

EXTRAORDINARY geniuses are rare productions. But Providence is pleased sometimes to produce them, that we may be informed of

FRANCES MARIA.



She seized the child by the middle, opened a closet,
and there placed him out of danger.



what vast excellences the human mind is capable, as well as to what an exalted height pre-eminent virtue, when united to brilliant talents, can elevate a man.

A more striking example of this cannot easily be adduced than that of the celebrated Pascal ; the early quickness and comprehensive reach of whose understanding, the strength and ability of whose judgment, and above all the singular humility, patience, and charity of whose life, have been equalled by few, and not exceeded by any.

He was born at Clermont, the capital of the province of Auvergne, in France, in 1623. His father, Stephen Pascal, was a man of great learning, particularly in the mathematics ; and so great was his affection for his child, that he quitted the valuable office of president of the court of aids, in the province where he lived, that he might superintend his son's education in person at Paris. This excellent father perceived the early genius which dawned in the mind of his offspring, and he was resolved to cultivate it with care and diligence. In his very infancy young Pascal manifested proofs of an extraordinary sagacity ; he always desired to have a reason for every thing ; and would never submit to any point, or assertion, the truth of which was not made clear to him ; so that, when sufficient good reasons were not given him, he would

search for them himself; and whenever he applied to any subject, he never left the consideration of it till he had found some reasons that were satisfactory to his mind.

His father devoted his whole time to his son's education; and he had the pleasure to perceive that his instructions were gladly received and wonderfully improved. So rapid, indeed, was his progress, and so strong was his inclination to matters that required close reasoning, that his father, being fearful it would prevent his learning the languages, resolved to conceal from him the mathematics; and accordingly locked up all his books which treated of that science, and even forbore, as much as he could, the speaking of it in conversation. But as he was sometimes visited by mathematicians, it was impossible to avoid discoursing sometimes upon geometrical subjects. The son's curiosity was so importunate to know what geometry was, that the father could not refuse to tell him, in general terms, that "Geometry is a science which teaches the method of making figures with truth and exactness, and finding out the proportions which they bear to one another." At the same time Mr. Pascal strictly commanded him never to speak or think any more upon the subject.

Though this definition was very vague and obscure, it made a deep impression upon the

BLAISE PASCAL.



It happened one day, while he was busily engaged in these meditations, his father entered the room.

inquisitive mind of the youth, who was then no more than twelve years old. From this slight beginning he began to reflect and to meditate, when alone : and during the hours allowed for recreation, he accustomed himself to draw figures with charcoal on the floor and wainscot of the room. Though he had no instruments or copies, he formed squares, circles, and triangles, and endeavoured to find out their proportions.

Yet while thus employed, he was not acquainted with the names of the figures which he described ; but called a circle a round, a line a bar, and so on. He then formed axioms, laid down principles, and connected things in such a manner by reasoning, that he performed demonstrations. He first discovered the properties of the sections of lines ; those of parallel lines ; some belonging to triangles ; and at length arrived, by a chain of truths and consequences, at the thirty-second proposition of the first book of Euclid : so that in one sense, considering that all this was carried on and effected without any assistance, he may very justly be considered as an inventor of geometrical science. It happened one day, while he was busily engaged in these meditations, his father entered the room. Young Pascal was at first rather frightened at this sudden interruption, considering the prohibition which had been passed against his appli-

cation to geometry ; but the gentle manner with which his father surveyed his operations, and asked what he had been doing, gave him encouragement. He replied, that he was searching for such a thing, meaning the proposition just mentioned.

Though this answer greatly surprised his father, he did not express any signs of the admiration which it occasioned in his mind. He still continued to ask questions. The first was, what had made him think of this ? The child replied, that he had first discovered such a thing, which had led him to such another. Thus, by going back, still explaining himself by his names of bars and rounds, he came down to the axioms and definitions which he had imagined. Mr. Pascal was so astonished at the force of his son's genius, that he quitted him without being able to utter another word. He went immediately to the house of one of his intimate friends, named M. le Pailleur, who was a good mathematician, to communicate to him his joy, or rather his surprise ; but he was so overcome, that, on his arrival, he remained motionless, and the tears flowed from his eyes. M. le Pailleur, alarmed at his situation, begged him to communicate the cause of his affliction, thinking very naturally that he must have suffered some severe loss. " I do not weep from grief," replied Mr. Pascal, " but from joy. You know," added he " the

pains that I have taken to conceal from my son the knowledge of geometry, for fear of its diverting him from his other studies. Yet hear what he has done !” He then related all that had passed, and the discoveries which the child had made. M. le Pailleur, equally astonished at this prodigy, advised him no longer to conceal any thing from his son, but to put into his hand Euclid’s Elements.

Blaise read and understood this sublime book of geometry, without any explanation, with the greatest facility and satisfaction. His mind, attentive to every thing, suffered no remarkable fact to escape without a careful examination. He always directed himself to a discovery of its cause, and occupied himself about nothing else till he had made himself master of the subject. One day at table, some person having struck an earthenware-plate with a knife, he observed that a sound was produced which ceased as soon as the hand was laid on the plate. He repeated this experiment, and made several others on the same subject. He remarked so many things in his researches, that he formed a little treatise on sounds. His father carried this work to an assembly of learned men, to which he went regularly every week ; and these gentlemen admired it so much, that they earnestly requested to have his son for a member of their society. The new comer endeavoured

to deserve this favour by his productions. He brought as many new pieces as any of the members, and sometimes discovered errors in the propositions under examination, which men of great learning and discernment had overlooked.

Yet all this while he only employed the hours allowed him for recreation in the study of mathematics; for he was then learning the languages under the direction of his father. But finding in geometry, demonstration and truth, which he was passionately fond of in all things, he made such a rapid progress in it, that he wrote at sixteen years of age a treatise on Conic Sections, which, in the judgment of persons of the greatest abilities, was looked upon as an astonishing effort of the human mind. . It was thought that no such instance of genius had ever been known since the time of Archimedes, the wonderful mathematician of Syracuse, who used to say, "Give me a place to stand on, and I will, by the power of mechanical instruments, move the world."

At nineteen years of age, our admirable youth found out an excellent arithmetical machine, by which calculations of every kind are not only made without the help of the pen, but without a person's knowing a single rule in arithmetic. He proceeded thus to improve, not only in the mathematics, but in every other branch of learning, till the age of twenty-

four, when he applied his mind almost entirely to divinity ; but he never concerned himself with such religious questions as were merely of a curious nature. He employed the whole power and strength of the faculties of his mind in learning and practising the perfections of christian morality ; to which he consecrated all the extraordinary talents which God had bestowed upon him.

His humility was so remarkable, that the clergyman who attended him during his last illness, used constantly to say, " He is a child ; he is as humble and submissive as a little child !" Through this virtue, he allowed people to tell him freely of his faults, and he followed implicitly all sound and proper advice which was given to him.

Nor was his charity less conspicuous than his humility : his whole life was devoted to it, and he willingly retrenched his expenses within very moderate bounds, that he might be enabled to give more liberally to the poor.

He behaved with the utmost mildness towards those who did him any acts of unkindness ; so that he never made any difference between such persons and the rest of the world ; and forgot so entirely any injuries he received, that he could not be brought to remember the particulars of them. And when any of his friends expressed their surprise,

that one who had so extraordinary a memory in other respects, should be so forgetful in this, he would say, "Don't wonder at it ; it is no virtue in me ; it is nothing but forgetfulness ; and I assure you I have not the least idea of what you have been speaking to me about."

We perceive by this, that such injuries as related to his person, made little impression upon him, since he forgot them so easily ; for otherwise his memory was so excellent, that he used to say he had never forgot any particular which he was desirous of remembering. What is said of Cæsar by Cicero may well be applied to Mr. Pascal : "You never forgot any thing but injuries !" Happy forgetfulness ! What a source of comfort it is thus to preserve the mind free from the consideration of what can, at best, only produce uneasiness !

Wearied out with illness, which he endured with exemplary patience and resignation, this sublime genius and elevated christian philosopher relinquished the frail tabernacle of the flesh, and entered on the joys of immortality, August 19, 1662.

ABRAHAM COWLEY.

THIS ingenious poet was born in St. Dunstan's parish, London, in the year 1618. His father died before the birth of this son, who was left to the care of his mother. This excellent woman struggled hard to procure for her child a literary education ; and, as she lived to the age of eighty, had her solicitude rewarded, by seeing her son eminent ; and it is to be hoped, by seeing him fortunate, partook of his prosperity. We know, at least, from his earliest biographer, that he always acknowledged her care, and justly paid the dues of filial gratitude.

In the window of his mother's apartment lay Spenser's poem of the Fairy Queen, in which young Cowley very early took delight to read, till, by feeling the charms of verse, he became, as he relates, irrecoverably a poet. Such, says Dr. Johnson in his life of Cowley, are the accidents which, sometimes remembered, and perhaps sometimes forgotten, produce that particular designation of mind, and propensity for some certain science or employment, which is commonly called genius. The true genius is a mind of large general powers,

accidentally determined to some particular direction. Sir Joshua Reynolds, the great painter, had the first fondness for his art excited by the perusal of Richardson's *Treatise on Painting*.

By his mother's solicitation, Cowley was admitted a king's scholar of Westminster school, where he is stated as having been so deficient in memory, as to be incapable of retaining the ordinary rules of the Latin grammar. But Dr. Johnson treats this assertion with just contempt; for as Cowley became an elegant classical scholar, and wrote the Latin language with purity, both in prose and verse, he could not be ignorant of its rules, though he was such an enemy to all constraint, that his master could never prevail on him to learn the rules without book.

His literary attainments, however, were most honourable both to his genius and his application; for at the early age of fifteen, a volume of his poems, under the appropriate title of "*Poetical Blossoms*," was printed, containing among other compositions, "*The Tragic History of Pyramus and Thisbe*," written when he was only ten years old; and "*Constantia and Philetus*," written two years after.

While he was yet at school, he also produced a comedy, called "*Love's Riddle*,"

but it was not published till he had been some time at the university.

In 1636 he was elected a scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge, in which favourable situation a genius like his could not fail of obtaining distinction. While a young student he produced a Latin comedy, entitled "*Naufragium Joculare*," which was acted before the university by the members of his college. He also wrote at this time a great part of his "*Davideis*," or a poem on the History of David. This, says Dr. Johnson, is a work of which the materials could not have been collected without the study of many years, but by a mind of the greatest vigour and activity.

Cowley continued at Cambridge, where he took his degree of master of arts, till the rebellion in 1643; and the visitation of that university by the puritanical visitors occasioned him to retire to Oxford, where he distinguished himself by his loyalty, and gained the kindness and confidence of those who attended on the king, particularly the accomplished Lucius Cary, Lord Falkland.

When the events of that calamitous war obliged the queen of Charles I. to leave the kingdom, Cowley accompanied her to France.

At the restoration of Charles the Second, he became a member of the Royal Society; and having obtained a farm at Chertsey, in Surry, he lived there retired from the political

world, and died at the age of 49, July 28, 1667. His remains were interréd, amidst an honourable attendance of persons of distinction, in Westminster Abbey, where a monument was erected to his memory. So excellent was his moral character, that the king, on being informed of his death, declared, Mr. Cowley had not left a better man behind him in England.

The poetry of Cowley is too metaphysical and affected for the taste of the present age, and therefore is seldom read. There are, however, numerous beauties scattered throughout his works, of which the following is a happy specimen :

Begin, be bold, and venture to be wise :

He who defers this work from day to day,

Does on a river's bank expecting stay,

Till the whole stream that stopp'd him shall be gone,

Which runs, and, as it runs, forever shall run on.

It is a high commendation of Cowley, that in a period marked by great licentiousness, and when all the leading wits and poets fell into the corrupt taste, his works are distinguished by the love and praise of virtue and religion.

JAMES CRICHTON,
COMMONLY CALLED
THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON.

THIS celebrated person, concerning whom the most surprising things are recorded, was born in Scotland in 1560. His father was lord advocate of that kingdom, and his mother was of the royal family of Stuart. He received his education at Perth and St. Andrews; though, according to some accounts, he had the celebrated George Buchanan for his tutor, in which case Crichton must have been a fellow pupil with James the First.

Though this circumstance is not very credible, it is, however, certain that his education was most liberal; and by the time he had reached his twentieth year he was master of ten languages, and had gone through the whole circle of sciences as they were then understood.

Nor was his fame confined to merely literary accomplishments. He was distinguished by his uncommon strength, and agility in athletic exercises. In fencing, he could spring at one bound the length of twenty feet on his

antagonist, and could use the sword in either hand with equal skill. He possessed also a very fine voice, and played well on musical instruments. To these various accomplishments were added the advantages of a handsome person, and a remarkably fine countenance; circumstances undoubtedly of no value, unless they happen to be united with virtue and mental talents.

Thus qualified, Crichton set out on his travels; and, on his arrival at Paris, he publicly set up a challenge on the college gate, in which he invited all the learned men of the university to dispute with him on a certain day, and giving his opponents, whoever they might be, the choice of ten languages, and of all the sciences.

He is said to have spent the interval not in reading, but amusements, whereby he brought upon himself the contempt of the students, who regarded him as an impudent braggadocio, and they scrupled not to publish the most bitter sarcasms and epigrams upon his character and pretensions.

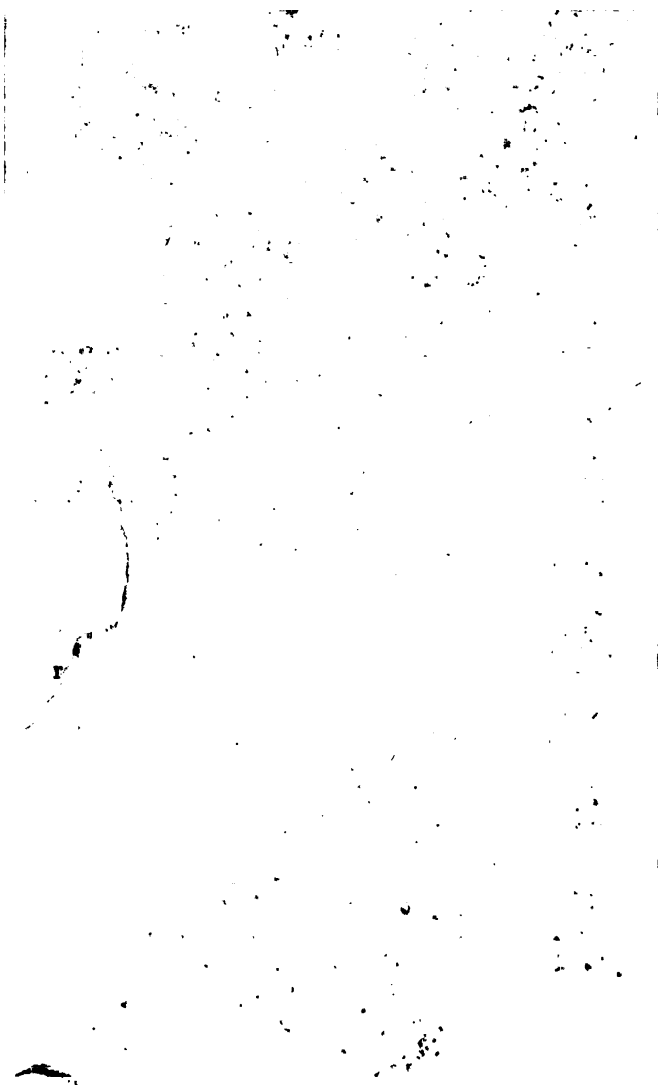
But Crichton soon covered his calumniators with confusion. On the day appointed he appeared in presence of three thousand persons, whom curiosity had drawn to the college to witness this singular phenomenon. There, after a disputation of nine hours against fifty-four of the most learned men of the universi-

JAMES CRICHTON.



"After a disputation of nine hours against fifty-four of the most learned men of the university, he silenced his antagonists, and was presented with a diamond and a purse of gold, amidst the loudest acclamations."

PAGE 31.



ty, he silenced his antagonists, and was presented with a diamond and a purse of gold, amidst the loudest acclamations. Every passion which had agitated the minds of the members of the university against him, was now changed into admiration; and one of his opponents had the candour to confess, that Crichton, who now obtained the appellation of "admirable," gave proofs of knowledge almost more than human. It is added, that so little was our young champion fatigued with this uncommon exercise, that the next day he attended a tilting match, where, in the presence of the court of France, he bore away the prize on his lance fifteen times successively.

We next find Crichton at Rome, where he set up a writing in the most public places of the city, offering to dispute on any subject that should be offered, without any previous intimation of the subject. In a city so famous for scholastic learning and wit, a challenge that bore such apparent marks of presumption could not escape ridicule. He was considered as a literary empiric, and the place of his residence was pointed out to such as wished to see its exhibitions: but Crichton, not at all daunted, entered the lists which he had sought; and, in the presence of the pope and his cardinals, bore away the palm of victory.

Leaving Rome, he directed his course to Venice; and if we may judge from some of

his Latin verses still extant, which he composed on this occasion, notwithstanding all the reputation which he had acquired, he was either distressed in mind, or laboured under some embarrassment in pecuniary matters. But, becoming acquainted with the celebrated scholar Aldus Manutius, he was in a great measure relieved from his difficulties, and introduced by him to the literati of that city. He had also the honour of attracting the notice of the doge and senate, before whom he pronounced an unpremeditated oration with such dignified eloquence, that he received the thanks of that illustrious body, and was universally considered as a prodigy of human nature.

From Venice, Crichton went to Padua, then accounted one of the finest universities in Europe. Here he held another disputation, beginning with an extemporaneous poem in praise of the place and his auditors; and, after disputing six hours with the most celebrated professors, whom he foiled on every subject which was started, he concluded, to the astonishment of every hearer, with another extemporaneous poem in praise of ignorance.

Amidst all these laurels, he continued his pursuit of pleasure with the same eagerness as if it had been his sole study. So contradictory were his merits, and such was the versatility of his talents, that he became the subject

of envy as much as of admiration. His fame and success raised him numerous enemies, who endeavoured not only to blacken his moral character, but also to depreciate his literary reputation.

Crichton was not insensible of this ; and therefore, to silence his detractors, he set up a public paper in the university, offering to prove that there were innumerable errors in the works of Aristotle and his interpreters ; at the same time challenging all men to dispute with him in any of the sciences, engaging himself to answer all questions, and to repel any objections, either logically, mathematically, or in extemporaneous verse. This strange and unequal contest he is said to have maintained three days successively, without suffering any fatigue ; at the end of which, he came off completely a victor over all his opponents.

The literary fame of the admirable Crichton had now spread over all Italy ; and, when he came to Mantua, he had an opportunity of signalizing himself by a feat of arms. A prize-fighter, after defeating the most celebrated masters in Europe, had fixed his residence, for a time, in Mantua, where he had already killed three persons who had entered the lists against him. The grand duke, therefore, began to regret that he had granted his protection to this licensed murderer ; which reaching the ears of Crichton, he was fired with the

ambition of ridding the world of such a sanguinary monster, and offered to stake fifteen hundred pistoles, and to mount the prize against him. With some reluctance the prize was consented to, and every thing being prepared, this single combat was exhibited before the assembled court, and an immense concourse of spectators. Their weapon seems to have been the single rapier, then just introduced into Italy. The prize-fighter advanced with great impetuosity, while Crichton contented himself with parrying his thrusts, and suffered him to exhaust his own vigour, before he attempted to charge. At last, watching his opportunity, Crichton became the assailant, and pressed upon his antagonist with such force and agility, that he ran him thrice through the body, and saw him expire. He then generously divided the prize which he had won among the widows whose husbands had been killed.

The Duke of Mantua conceived the highest esteem for this illustrious stranger, and made choice of him for preceptor to his son, Vincentio di Gonzaga, a prince of dissolute manners and a turbulent disposition. The appointment was highly acceptable to the court; and Crichton, to evince his gratitude, and to contribute to the amusement of his patrons, composed, we are told, a comedy, in which he exposed and ridiculed all the principal foibles of the age, with the most poignant

satire and propriety of application ; and in this play he himself exhibited fifteen different characters, with such ease and grace, that he appeared every one to be a different person.

But the time was now approaching, in which it was proved, that, with all his endowments, Crichton was no more than mortal. Roving about the streets one night, during the carnival, and playing on the guitar, he was attacked by six men in masks. His courage did not desert him on this occasion ; he opposed them with such spirit and adroitness, that they were glad to fly ; and their leader, being disarmed, threw off his mask, and begged his life. How must it have wounded the sensibility and confounded the reason of Crichton, to discover, in the person of an assassin, the prince, his pupil ! Instead of granting the forfeited boon of life, which was all that ought to have been required, he fell on his knees, apologized for his mistake, and, presenting the sword to Gonzaga, told him he was always master of his existence, and needed not to have sought his death by treachery. The brutal prince, irritated by the affront which he had received, or, as some say, stung with jealousy, grasped the proffered instrument, and plunged it in his tutor's heart.

Thus fell the admirable Crichton, in the bloom of youth, at the age of twenty-two, by

the hands of the man who owed to him his life. The court of Mantua testified their esteem for his memory, by a public mourning, and the most ingenious poets expressed grief in numerous elegiac compositions; and for a long time afterwards his picture decorated the chambers and galleries of the Italian nobility, representing him on horseback, with a lance in one hand, and a book in the other.

JOHN PHILIP BARATIER.

THIS wonderful youth, who was just exhibited by Providence upon the stage of life, to show the extensive powers of the human mind, and then disappeared, as if fitted for a higher sphere, was born in 1721, at Schwobach, near Nuremberg, in the Margraviate of Brandenburg Anspach. His father was minister of the French church at that place, having fled from France on account of his being a protestant, at the time of the revocation of the edict of Nantes. He was a man of great piety and learning, and undertook himself the education of his son, who made so great a progress under his instructions, that at the age of five years he is said to have understood the Greek,

Latin, German, and French languages. His father, surprised and delighted with his uncommon genius, next proceeded to teach him Hebrew, and in less than a year he was able to read the historical books of the Bible in that tongue. At the age of nine years he could translate any part of the Hebrew Scriptures into Latin, and even re-translate those versions into Hebrew,—an attainment which is almost incredible. At the same age he could repeat by heart the Hebrew Psalter, without having taken any other pains to commit it to memory than by frequently reading it with his father. Before he had completed his tenth year, he drew up a Hebrew Lexicon, of uncommon and difficult words, to which he added many curious critical remarks.

In 1731 Baratier was admitted a member of the university of Altdorf. The same year he wrote in French a letter to M. Le Maitre, minister of the French church at Schwobach, on a new edition of the Bible, Hebrew, Chaldaic, and Rabbinical, which letter was published in a German literary journal.

The Margrave of Anspach in 1734 settled upon him a pension of fifty florins a year, and allowed him the free use of the books in his library. The fruits of his industry appeared in a translation from the Hebrew, with historical and critical notes, and dissertations of the

“ Rabbi Benjamin’s Travels in Europe, Asia, and Africa, containing an account of the state of the Jews in the twelfth century.” This work was published at Amsterdam, in two volumes octavo, in 1734, the author’s thirteenth year; and the whole is said to have been finished by him in four months.

This wonderful youth, in the midst of his philosophical pursuits, found leisure for the study of the mathematics; and with such effect, that he invented a method of discovering the longitude at sea, which he laid before the academy of sciences at Berlin, in a long letter, dated January 21, 1735, the day in which he completed his fourteenth year. Finding that the letter was well received, he resolved to maintain and explain his project in person; and accordingly, in March following, he set out for Berlin. On his way thither, he passed, with his father, through Halle, the chancellor of which celebrated university offered him the honorary degree of master of arts. This flattering proposal induced Baratier, on the spot, and in the presence of several professors, to draw up fourteen theses in philology, ecclesiastical history, and philosophy, which he caused to be printed the same night, and supported them the next day for three hours with great applause; upon which he received his degree with marks of high distinction.

He arrived a few days afterwards at Berlin. On the 24th of March, the mathematical class being assembled, with all the heads of the university, and many members of other classes, Baratier was called in. M. de Vignoles, the rector, suggested to him some difficulties respecting his project on the longitude ; to which he replied with great readiness and ability. After this he presented in Latin the plan of an astronomical instrument, which he proposed to execute. The learned Jablonski, the president, reported that he had examined Baratier in the king's presence, and had found him well acquainted with the oriental languages, and various other branches of learning ; on which he was unanimously admitted, with the customary formalities, a member of the society.

On his return to Halle with his father, whom the king of Prussia at this time appointed to the pastoral charge of the French church in that city, young Baratier directed his studies to theology, and with such success, that in 1735 he printed a work in Latin against Socinianism, under the title of Anti-Artemonius. To this book he added a dissertation on the Three Dialogues commonly ascribed to Theodoret. This latter performance he afterwards defended in a German journal against some French critics ; and in the same journal

he printed a Dissertation on two works attributed to St. Athanasius.

The king of Prussia, to whom he was introduced, by way of trying the extent of his knowledge, asked him whether he understood the public law of the empire. Baratier was obliged to confess that he did not. "Then," said the king, "go and study it before you pretend to the character of a man of learning."

This roused the literary emulation of the youth. He renounced for a time all other studies, and applied himself to this with so much ardour, that in fifteen months he was enabled to defend a thesis on law with great credit.

His intense application, however, and the continual exercise of his mental faculties, which he did not relieve by amusements, or a proper degree of relaxation, speedily destroyed a constitution which was naturally very delicate. A complication of complaints attacked him; and after a decline of some months, during which he employed himself in collecting materials for a voluminous work on the Antiquities and History of Egypt, he died at Halle, in 1740, aged nineteen years eight months and seven days.

The extensive learning of this surprising young man, neither made him proud nor ill-natured. He was affable and courteous in his

behaviour, meek and contented in his disposition, frugal and abstemious in his mode of life. If his ardent thirst for wisdom and intellectual riches demands our admiration, his early end holds out a lesson for the due management even of literary pursuits, and warns us not to trifle with the means of prolonging our bodily health and strength, which are so necessary to render the highest mental talents honourable to ourselves, by being beneficial to society.

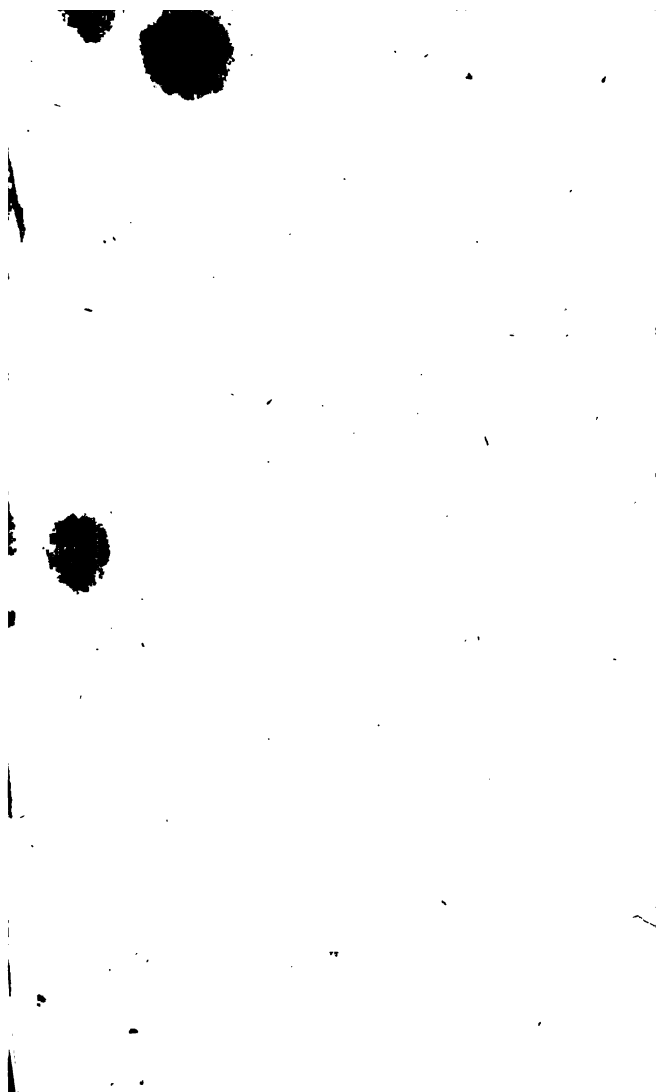
PETER GASSENDI.

If it be curious and satisfactory to a lover of nature to watch the developement of a plant or an insect, it would be still more so for the thoughtful and attentive philosopher to watch the first rays of intelligence in a child, and the first emotions of the heart. It may perhaps be conjectured what a man will be in the evening of his life, by studying it in its morning.

These reflections were suggested to the mind, on reading a very pleasing circumstance related in the life of the celebrated Gassendi,

a French philosopher and divine of the highest reputation.

He was born on the 22d of January, 1592, at Chanterrier, a little village of Provence, in France. His father's name was Anthony Gassend, and his mother's Frances Fabre. They were worthy people, more distinguished by the probity and gentleness of their manners than by their birth and situation. Their son was called Peter Gassend, a name which the learned have changed into that of Gassendi, by which he is now known. Gassendi could scarcely speak when he caught all that he heard, adding to it things that he imagined himself. At the age of four years he declaimed little sermons. As he grew bigger the scenes of nature made a strong impression upon him. He was particularly sensible to the magnificence of a starry sky. When only seven years old, he felt a secret charm in the contemplation of the stars; and without the knowledge of his parents, he sacrificed his sleep to this pleasure. One evening a dispute arose between him and his young companions about the motion of the moon and that of the clouds. His friends insisted that the clouds were still, and that it was the moon which moved. He maintained, on the contrary, that the moon had no sensible motion, and that it was the clouds which passed so swiftly. His reasons produced no effect on



PETER GASSENDI.



“For this purpose Gassendi took them under a tree, and made them observe that the moon still appeared between the same leaves, while the clouds sailed far away out of sight.”

the minds of the children, who trusted to their own eyes rather than to any thing that could be said on the subject. It was therefore necessary to undeceive them by means of their eyes. For this purpose Gassendi took them under a tree, and made them observe that the moon still appeared between the same leaves, while the clouds sailed far away out of sight.

His father was so struck with these happy dispositions, that he resolved to cultivate them. He accordingly spoke to the clergyman of his parish, who engaged to teach him the rudiments of learning. This was the food that the mind of young Gassendi demanded ; and he applied to study with so much ardour, that not contented with working in the day, he also studied during part of the night by the light of the church lamp. His progress was extremely rapid. At the end of three years he understood and spoke Latin with elegance. The Bishop of Digne coming upon a visitation to Chantersier, Gassendi, who was then only ten years old, harangued him in Latin with so much grace and vivacity, that the prelate, equally surprised and charmed with his premature talents, said aloud, " That child will one day be the wonder of his time, and before he has attained the age of maturity he will be a cause of admiration to the learned."

This prediction was realized ; for he was engaged to teach rhetoric at Digne when he

was no more than sixteen years old ; and before he was twenty he was appointed professor of philosophy in the university of Aix. In this situation his lectures gained him extensive fame and crowded audiences ; though he had to encounter some opposition on account of the ability with which he refuted the absurd principles of philosophy and useless subtleties of the schools, which were universal in his time.

Gassendi entered into holy orders, and became doctor and rector of the cathedral church of Digne. His vast knowledge of philosophy and mathematics was ornamented by a sincere belief of the Christian religion, and a life formed upon its principles and precepts. This enabled him to meet death with calm composure ; for a little before he expired, he desired his secretary to lay his hand upon his heart, which, when he had done, and said that it beat low and feeble, " You see," said the dying Christian philosopher, " you see how frail is the life of man !" He died in 1655.

VALENTINE JAMERAI DUVAL.

It is pleasing and instructive to read the efforts and progress of those persons who, without the advantages of early instruction,

have overcome every difficulty, and attained eminence in the honourable sphere of literature and science. Such instances show not only the innate powers of the human mind when laudably exercised, but serve as a stimulus to rouse young persons into an imitation of those praiseworthy examples.

This is a reflection peculiarly suitable as an introduction to the following memoir, in which much will be found to instruct and to edify our young readers, as well as to please and entertain them.

Valentine Jamerai Duval was born in 1755, in the village of Artenay, in Champagne. At the age of ten years he lost his father, a poor labourer, who left his wife in a state of poverty with a large family.

Though young Duval was accustomed from his infancy to the want of almost every necessary of life, yet the misery he endured, instead of extinguishing the happy dispositions with which he was born, served to develop a strong courage which he retained to the end of his days. He had scarcely learned to read, when, at the age of twelve years, he entered into the service of a peasant, who appointed him to take care of his poultry. This employment did not agree with the vivacity of his disposition ; but he relieved it by his sports and frolics, which endeared him to all the

boys of the village. He presided in their amusements, invented new ones, and his good nature made him the delight of all his associates.

In the winter of 1709 he quitted his native place, and travelled towards Lorraine; but after a few days' journey he was attacked by the small-pox. In this wretched condition he was found by a poor shepherd, who placed him in a sheep-pen; but his poverty could supply him with no other subsistence than coarse bread and water, and no other bed than a truss of straw. The breath of the sheep occasioned a perspiration that assisted the disorder with which he was infected. In this deplorable situation, the sheep came and licked his face; and not having strength to drive them away, he suffered great torment from the roughness of their tongues. Yet he was not insensible of their kindness, but had a feeling concern lest the poor animals should imbibe the infection; not knowing at that time, as he says, that this loathsome disease is peculiar to the human species.

By the vigour of his constitution he overcame the disorder, and quitting his benefactor, pursued his journey to a village on the borders of Lorraine, where he hired himself to another shepherd, with whom he continued two years.

He next became servant to a hermit, nam-

ed Brother Palemón, at La Rochette, with whom, however, he did not long reside, as the superiors of his master sent him another companion ; but Brother Palemon gave him a letter of recommendation to the hermits of St. Anne, at some distance from La Rochette, and about two miles from Luneville.

In passing through Luneville, Duval, who had never been in a town before, felt the utmost astonishment, and considered the place as the centre of grandeur. On his arrival at St. Anne, the hermits received him with kindness, and intrusted to his care six cows, which, with the produce of their little farm, not only provided subsistence for themselves, but also the means of charity to the neighbouring poor.

Duval had always discovered an ardour for books, and read with avidity all that fell in his way. It was at St. Anne's that he began to learn to write. One of the old men traced for him, with a decrepit hand, the elements of this ingenious art. So defective a model could produce but poor copies ; but his zeal and ingenuity soon enabled him to write with tolerable readiness.

One day as he was in the forest employing himself in laying snares for game, that he might be able to purchase books and maps of geography, he perceived upon a tree a large wild cat, whose sparkling eyes and rich fur strongly excited his avarice. Resolved to

catch it, he climbed the tree; and perceiving that the animal kept at the extremity of the branches to avoid him, he cut a stick, to drive it from its station. He gave it a violent blow on the head, and it fell to the ground, but was so little injured as to be able to run away. Duval made a similar leap, and pursued it so closely, that the animal took refuge in a hollow tree; but he manœuvred so well with his stick, at the bottom of the tree, that the cat, finding itself warmly attacked, bolted from its retreat to make a new escape, and threw itself directly into the arms of its enemy. He exerted all his efforts to stifle the animal, which became furious, and fastened its talons and teeth to the head of our hero. Duval, resolved not to let it escape, tore it by its hind feet from his head, which was nearly scalped, and killed it against a tree. Elated with his victory, he fastened the cat to his stick, and returned home. His masters seeing him covered with blood, were terrified; but he said with the utmost indifference, "It is a mere trifle: be so good as to wash my head with a little warm wine, and it will soon be well:" and showing the cat, "Here is my recompense."

His perseverance in the chase, and the money he procured for his game, had enabled him to purchase some books, when an unexpected occasion furnished him with the means

of adding to his collection. Walking in the forest one day, he found a gold seal with arms engraved on it. He went the next Sunday to Luneville, to entreat the vicar to publish it in the church, that the person who had lost it might recover it by applying at the Hermitage. Some weeks after, a gentleman knocked at the gate of St. Anne's, and asked for the hermit's boy. Duval appeared.—“You have found a seal?” said the stranger.—“Yes, Sir.” “I will thank you for it; it belongs to me.”—“A moment's patience; before I give it you, you will be so good as to blazon your arms.”—“You are laughing at me, young man: you can surely know nothing of heraldry?”—“Be that as it may, Sir,” said Duval, who had read a French book on the Elements of Heraldry, “you shall not have the seal till you have blazoned your arms.” The gentleman, surprised at the manner and tone of Duval, asked him a variety of questions, and finding him well informed, described his arms, and gave him two guineas. Desirous of being better acquainted with the lad, the gentleman, who was an Englishman of the name of Foster, made him promise to come and breakfast with him at Luneville every holiday. Duval did so, and received a crown at every visit.

The generosity of Mr. Foster continued during his abode at Luneville, and he added

to it his advice respecting the choice of books and maps. The application of Duval, under such a guide, could not fail of being attended with improvement, and he added greatly to his stock of knowledge.

The number of his books had increased to four hundred volumes, but his wardrobe was the same ; consisting of a coarse linen coat for summer, and a woollen one for winter, with wooden shoes. His frequent visits at Lunaville, the opulence and luxury that prevailed there, and the state of ease he began to feel, did not tempt him to quit his first simplicity ; and he would have considered himself as guilty of robbery, if he had spent a farthing of what he gained for any other purpose than to satisfy his passion for books. Economical to excess, and prodigal in whatever could contribute to his instruction and extend his knowledge, his privations gave him no pain. In proportion as his mind strengthened, and his ideas enlarged, he began to reflect upon his abject state. He felt that he was not in his proper place ; and he wished for a change. From this instant a secret inquietude haunted him in his retreat, accompanied him in the forest, and distracted him in his studies.

Seated one day at the foot of a tree, absorbed in reflection, and surrounded by maps, which he examined with eager attention, a gentleman approached him, and asked him,

with an air of surprise, what he was doing.—“Studying geography,” said he.—“And do you understand any thing of the subject?”—“Certainly; I never trouble myself about things I do not understand.”—“And what place are you seeking for?”—“I am trying to find the nearest way to Quebec.”—“For what purpose?”—“That I may go there, and continue my studies in the university of that town.”—“But why need you go for this purpose to the end of the world? There are universities nearer home, superior to that of Quebec; and if it will afford you any pleasure, I will point them out to you.”—At this moment they were joined by a retinue belonging to the young princes of Lorraine, who were hunting in the forest with Count Vidampiere and Baron Pfutschner, their governors. Various questions were put to Duval, which he answered with precision, and without being out of countenance. It was at length proposed by Baron Pfutschner and Count Vidampiere, the persons who first accosted him, that he should pursue his studies in the college of Jesuits at Pont-à-Mousson. Duval felt the importance of this proposal, but desired time to consider of it; adding, that he valued his liberty, and would never quit his retreat without being sure of preserving this precious gift of nature. They dispelled his apprehensions on

this subject, and the baron promised to call upon him in a few days.

He kept his word, and came to inform him, that Leopold, duke of Lorraine, would take him under his protection, and furnish him with the means of pursuing his studies. He invited him at the same time to go with him to court at Luneville. Our young recluse was attached to the hermitage, and could not quit it without tears. Having vowed eternal gratitude to his benefactors, he set off in a chariot with the baron ; and on his arrival at Luneville, was presented to the duke, who received him in the midst of a numerous court, whom this singular event had contributed to assemble. Duval answered every question that was put to him without being confused, notwithstanding the novelty of the scene, and the important part he had to act. Some ladies having expressed their surprise at the whiteness of his teeth, he said, ingenuously, "What, ladies, can there be astonishing in this? It is an advantage which I enjoy in common with the canine species." The duke, charmed with his simplicity and physiognomy, renewed his promise of protection, and committed the care of his establishment at the college to Baron Pfutschner. His books and effects were accordingly conveyed thither ; he was clothed, and an annual pension was assigned him.

Duval's natural taste for study made him redouble his zeal. History, geography, and antiquities, were the studies he preferred, and in which he made a great progress.

He lived two years in this house ; and such was his improvement, that the duke, as a recompense, permitted him in 1718 to make a journey to Paris in his suite. On his return the next year his highness appointed him his librarian, and conferred on him the office of Professor of History in the academy of Lunéville.

He shortly after read public lectures on history and antiquities, which were attended by numerous auditors, particularly a number of young Englishmen, among whom was William Pitt, afterwards the immortal Earl of Chatham. Duval, struck with the distinguished air and sonorous voice of this young man, predicted more than once his future eminence.

Occupied by his studies, Duval had spent many years in perfect content, when an unexpected accident interrupted his felicity. Duke Leopold died in 1738, and his son Francis exchanged the Duchy of Lorraine for that of Tuscany. King Stanislaus, the new possessor of Lorraine, entreated Duval to continue in the office of professor in the academy ; but his attachment to his old patron would not permit him to listen to the proposal. He went

to Florence, where he was placed at the head of the Duke's library. The science of medals, upon which he had read lectures in Lorraine, became now his favourite amusement, and he was desirous of making a collection of ancient and modern coins. He was deeply engaged in this pursuit, when the Emperor Francis, who had formed a similar design, sent for him to Vienna, that he might have the care of his collection.

During his abode at Vienna, it was customary for him to wait upon the emperor after dinner. One day he quitted him abruptly, without waiting ~~for~~ he should be dismissed. "Where are you going?" said the prince.—"To hear Gabrieli, Sire."—"But she sings so wretchedly!"—"Let me entreat your majesty not to say this aloud."—"Why not?"—"Because it is of importance to your majesty, that every one should believe what you say; but in this no one will believe you." The Abbé Marcy, who was present, said to him, as they came out, "Do you know, Duval, that you have spoken to the emperor a bold truth?"—"So much the better," replied he; "I hope he will profit by it." He preserved, nevertheless, the friendship of their majesties, and continued to receive new proofs of it.

Once, during the Carnival, the empress laid a bet with his majesty, who piqued him-

self on being able to find out all the masks, that she would give her arm at the ball to a mask which he should not discover. Duval, who had never been at a ball in his life, was desired to wait upon the maids of honour, that he might be dressed for the occasion. He went, and endeavoured to excuse himself, alleging his awkwardness, and ignorance how to behave : but he was obliged to yield ; and every thing being ready, he was introduced to her majesty. The empress gave him her arm, and assuming a tone of gaiety to encourage him, she said, " Well, Duval, I hope you will dance a minuet with me ?" " I, madam ! I have learned in the woods no other dance than that of tumbling head over heels." The empress laughed heartily at his reply, and presently they arrived at the assembly-room. The emperor, anxious to win his bet, was already there ; but his efforts were vain to discover the mask, which, after two hours' stay, was suffered to depart. The disguise of Duval, and the constraint he experienced in so great a crowd, had made him very warm ; and in returning from the ball he caught a violent cold, which, as he pleasantly said, preserved him from the danger of being elated with pride at the distinction conferred upon him.

A philosopher in the true sense of the word, Duval thus lived, in the midst of luxury and splendour, a life truly pastoral, never deviating

from his original plan, and never more happy than in his study.

His health being much impaired by intense application, he was advised to take a journey to France to restore it. He accordingly visited Paris in 1752, and there formed a close intimacy with some of the most learned and virtuous men of the age.

On his return he passed through Artenay, his native place. He purchased his paternal cottage; and having caused it to be pulled down, he built upon the spot a commodious house, which he presented to the community for the abode of the schoolmaster of the village. His beneficence distinguished itself also towards a hamlet situated near Artenay, where finding that there were no wells, he had some dug at his own expense.

By temperance and philosophical serenity he preserved his constitution till the eightieth year of his age, when he was all at once attacked by the gravel, from which he suffered excruciating pains with lameness. This was followed by a fever, which carried him off in 1775, aged 81. His end was tranquil, and such as might be expected from a life that had been uniformly virtuous and useful. Let his ashes rest in peace; and may posterity, the arbiter of true merit, never forget a man who, to raise himself from a state of obscurity and depression to which his birth seemed to have

condemned him, opened himself a way, and overcame difficulties which the perseverance of genius alone was capable of surmounting.

AMBROSE BOUFLERS.

COURAGE and firmness do not belong exclusively to men. In past ages, and even in the present times, children have been seen to give proofs of heroic valour, and preserve calmness in the hottest posts of danger. What historians relate of the young Lacedemonians, what the boys of our own soldiery are daily seen to dare, who cheerfully carried food to their fathers in the midst of the fire of muskets and the balls of artillery, all prove the truth of this assertion. Education, habit, and example, next to nature, are the best of masters.

The Chevalier Bouflers does not figure here by his learning. Though he was educated with great care, and made a considerable progress in the sciences, in which he was instructed from his earliest years, he is more known by his military profession than by his erudition. Among the ancient French, with whom the strength of the body was preferred to the

improvement of the mind, it was a constant custom to inure children of good families to the profession of arms, from the age of eight or nine years. Some of these children have been seen in bloody battles, holding their colours with one hand, while with the other they struck great blows with their sabres. To confront a forest of bayonets, to recover a broken standard, or to regain a piece of lost ground, to meet the enemy in their intrenchments, to remain firm at the tremendous noise of artillery, scattering on all sides terror and death ; to collect the bullets, raining like hailstones on the field of battle, and carry them to the exhausted engineers, were more than once the exploits of youths of twelve or thirteen, as well as of intrepid grenadiers.

The young officer, whose history we are tracing, recalls to our memories and confirms these traits of heroism. He was born at Paris in 1734, of a family distinguished in the annals of France. Joseph Maria, Duke of Bouflers, and governor of Flanders, was his grandfather. Full of the noble deeds of our ancient knights and of his ancestors, this illustrious general was anxious that his grandson should resemble them, and support the honour of the family. In consequence, he procured for him an education proper to inflame his infant courage and inspire him with the love of glory. He was set to read the battles of Alexander, the His-

tory of Cyrus, the Life of Duguesclin, of the Chevalier Bayard, and of Henry IV. ; the histories of the great Condé, of Louis XIV., and of Villars. At seven years old, Ambrose was not only acquainted with the lives of the greatest warriors, but he could perform his exercise with the precision of an old soldier ; and he was able to carry and handle his arms without letting fall a crown-piece placed between his elbow and his side.

In his ninth year he had also acquired a knowledge of tactics, and the art of the attack and defence of places. He could give the word of command for the different military evolutions, and drew up with skill a little army ; for one of the principal amusements of his childhood was to place and move in different directions pieces of artillery, cavalry, and infantry, cut out in pasteboard. As a military man is likely to travel into foreign countries, the parents of young Bouflers spared no pains to make him acquainted with the modern languages, particularly the German, English, and Italian, which he learned in a few months by means of conversation.

The Chevalier de Bouflers had scarcely attained his tenth year, when he was obliged to interrupt the course of his studies to make his first campaign. France was then at war with the English and Austrians, and Germany was the scene of action. Little Ambrose went

thither with his father and his uncle. Such is the advantage of education, and the force of habit, that the child appeared no more astonished in the midst of the field than if he had been in his father's house. He first mounted guard as a common soldier, but he rose from rank to rank till he attained that of a cornet. The day the young officer was installed in his post, he was sent with a foraging party consisting of one hundred and twenty horse. On the road they encountered a band of Hulus, who attacked them, and opposed their passage. It was necessary to proceed to blows ; the skirmish was so sharp, that the little Chevalier was thrown from his saddle, and fell under his horse's feet ; he remounted safely, and had sufficient presence of mind to preserve his standard. He fired off his pistol, caught hold of his sword, and fought with as much intrepidity as if he had been long used to such rencounters.

Returning victorious, and slightly wounded in the right-hand, he ran to salute his uncle. The warrior took him in his arms, pressed him tenderly to his breast, and shed tears of joy : then perceiving that the child had received three balls in his hat, and several others in the skirts of his coat, the marquis was struck with admiration. His father now came to embrace him. " You look very

gay," said he, "considering you have had the firing so near you." "Dear father," replied the child, "I did not think of myself; my only fear was that of losing my poor servant, who hazarded his life twenty times to save mine. Ah! without him I should not now have had the pleasure of seeing again either you or my dear uncle."

During seven months the Chevalier Bouflers endured, without a complaint, the severest toils of war. Severe to himself, generous, and full of kindness to the soldiers, he took no advantages in consideration of his birth, and he punctually observed the discipline so necessary for the preservation of subordination. Though he often marched by night in desert fields and dreary forests, and frequently passed close to the enemy's posts, he never manifested any signs of fear. At length happened the famous battle fought near Dettingen, a village situated on the Main, in the electorate of Mentz. On this famous day the little Chevalier affected more gaiety than usual. Thinking that he perceived an air of uneasiness on the countenance of his father: "Papa," said he, "we shall gain glory to-day; the English will see fine sport." "May you say true!" replied Monsieur Bouflers with emotion; "I think the action will be rather hot: lest we should

meet no more, let us embrace ; and do your duty !" Half an hour after this affecting scene, the combat began. The Chevalier Bouflers, being posted with his cavalry on the banks of a river, sustained a heavy fire near an hour. The cannon roared on each side in the most terrible manner ; whirlwinds of smoke entirely hid both armies from the sight ; long files of men fell every moment, and the earth was covered with the dying and the dead.

Towards the conclusion of the battle, which had before gone in favour of the French, the English commanded by King George II. made an unexpected movement, by which the French general was deceived. He immediately gave orders for a retreat, which unfortunately did not arrive in time. The enemy fired on the French army point blank ; the first batteries were dismounted ; terror and confusion spread from rank to rank. In this fatal conjuncture the Chevalier Bouflers, who had received no orders to retire from the dangerous situation in which he was posted, saw all his men fall around him, disabled with wounds. He himself had his left leg broken ; he became senseless, and slipped under his horse's belly ; a soldier then ventured to take him on his shoulders, and carried him to the quarter of reserve.

The reputation of the young Chevalier for conduct and valour had reached even to the

Germans, and at this period was of signal service to him. The soldier, who bore him bleeding and senseless in his arms, was stopped at three different times by the Austrians; and three times, at the sight of the wounded child and the name of Bouflers, he was released, and arrived safe at the French camp.

When the young warrior had taken a little rest, and was come to himself, the wound was examined; it was judged incurable, and the surgeons declared that the leg must be amputated. The necessity and urgency of this painful operation was not concealed from him: "Since they cannot do otherwise," answered the brave boy, "I had rather lose my leg than my head." In this cruel extremity the dutiful child felt himself more than ever penetrated with the tenderest sentiments towards the author of his existence. He begged a delay of half an hour; and causing pen, ink, and paper to be brought him, he wrote to his mother the following letter:

"DEAR MAMMA,

"I have just received a wound in the leg; I will not conceal from you that it is absolutely necessary the limb should be taken off. I suffer more than I can express; but it is less from my wound than from the thought of the grief that it will give you to hear of it.

"I certainly expect to survive the opera-

tion ; but if Providence has ordered otherwise, let me at least have the consolation of embracing you in this letter ; and may this writing of a son, who loves as much as he respects you, be a new proof to you, my dear mamma, of my tender remembrance, and my gratitude for all your favours.

“ Do not make yourself uneasy, my dear mother ; I shall soon recover. Embrace for me my sister and my good friend.”

After having written this letter, the young hero entreated, with the most tender solicitude, that it should be sent immediately to his mother : and he was even attentive to have the courier largely paid in his presence ; after which he resigned himself to the operation. It was performed with no less promptitude than care and skill ; yet this intrepid child could not survive it. “ I am dying,” said he in a stifled voice ; “ father, I am about to leave you—Carry, I beg, this last kiss to mamma.” His father, bursting into tears, bent down to receive the last caress of his dear son, who added : “ Dear papa, it is not life that I regret, it is leaving you ; it is that I shall never see again my tender mother ; it is the disgrace of seeing the battle won by the English.”

VOLNEY BECKNER.

VOLNEY BECKNER. was born at Londonderry, in Ireland, in 1748, and was devoured by a shark at the age of twelve years.

The child whom we here commemorate, had not the advantage of springing from a wealthy or distinguished family : but of what importance is birth ? what is the effect of riches ? They often corrupt the morals. He who is worthy, honest, and wise, has no need of great or rich ancestors. Volney Beckner was the son of a poor Irish sailor ; he received no instruction but what related to his father's profession : yet nature had endowed his body with singular address and agility, and his mind with unusual intelligence and penetration. He had a soul of no common temper ; and from his earliest years he discovered sentiments of valour, which would have led him to great enterprises, had he enjoyed a longer life.

One art essentially necessary to a sailor, and serviceable to most others, is that of swimming. Besides that this exercise is very favourable to the health, and that it gives suppleness to the limbs, it is indispensable in a shipwreck ; there is no medium in such a

case ; a person must either know how to swim, or be drowned.

As soon as little Beckner was weaned, his father, by example, showed him how to guide himself in the middle of the waves, even when they were most agitated. He threw him down into the sea from the stern of the ship ; then suddenly plunging into this delusive element, which swallows so many men and so much riches, he sought for him again.

He afterwards supported him with one hand, taught him to extend his little arms and legs, and thus accustomed him from his cradle to brave dangers in their very bosom.

The pupil became so bold, able, and vigorous, that from his fourth year he would follow the ship in which he had been brought up, swimming the distance of one or two leagues. When he was exhausted by fatigue, his father, who watched him with an attentive eye, flew to catch him, and brought him to the ship on his back. Sometimes, when the little lad was not extremely fatigued, he would cling dexterously round a rope which was thrown out to him, and creep up like a rat into the vessel.

When he grew a little bigger, he soon rendered himself useful to the crew. In tempestuous weather, when the wind blew with violence, when it tore the sails, and the rain fell in torrents, he was one of the most active

on board. The squirrel does not clamber with more agility up the trees in Lapland, than Volney did up the shrouds and along the yards of the ship. When he was at the top of the mast, even in the fiercest of the storm, he appeared as little agitated as a passenger stretched in his hammock.

Such is the force of habit and example ! Happy are those who see none but good examples ! Cradled in the effeminacy of cities, abandoned to ignorant nurses, most children tremble like a leaf at the creaking of a door, and are ready to faint at the sight of a mouse. It is not so with those who are brought up in the midst of labour, and who contemplate brave men. To be fed with biscuit broken with a hatchet, sparingly moistened with muddy water full of worms, to be half covered with a garment of coarse cloth, to take some hours of repose on a plank, and be suddenly wakened at the moment when his sleep was the soundest, was the lot of Volney, and yet he enjoyed a robust constitution. He never caught cold, he never knew fevers, or any of those diseases which arise from gluttony and idleness. A hardy education is always the best, and alone forms superior men : of this fact history furnishes us with numerous examples. Such were the aptitude and industry of Beckner in his twelfth year, that at this age he was judged worthy of a higher

station, and double pay. The captain of his ship often mentioned him as a model to the other boys ; and said once, in the presence of the whole crew, " If this little fellow continues to conduct himself with so much valour and prudence, I have no doubt of his obtaining a place much above that which I occupy." Little Volney was very sensible to the praises that he had so well deserved. Though deprived of the study of letters, which cultivates the mind, extends our knowledge, and gives us just idea of things, he loved glory by instinct, and made great efforts to acquire it. From several instances of intrepid daring, which he manifested in many dangerous emergencies, we shall only select the following, since this alone will confer eternal honour on his memory.

A little girl, daughter to a rich American, who was going to Port-au-Prince, in France, had slipped away from her nurse, who was sick in the cabin, and ran upon deck. There, whilst she fixed her eyes with curiosity on the immense expanse of water, a sudden heaving of the ship caused her head to turn, and she fell into the sea. The father of Volney darted after her, and in five or six strokes caught her by her frock. Whilst he swam with one hand to regain the ship, and with the other held the child to his breast, Beckner perceived at a distance a shark advancing towards him.

He called out for assistance. The danger was pressing. Every one ran on deck, but no one dared to go further : they contented themselves with firing off several muskets ; but the animal, lashing the sea with his tail, and opening his frightful jaws, was just about to seize his prey. In this terrible extremity, what strong men would not venture to attempt, filial piety excited a child to execute. Little Volney armed himself with a sabre ; he threw himself into the sea ; then, plunging with the velocity of a fish, he slipped under the belly of the animal, and thrust the sword into him up to the hilt. Thus suddenly assailed, and deeply wounded, the shark quitted the sailor and child, but turned, exasperated, against the aggressor, who attacked him with repeated blows. What a heart-rending sight ! How worth of admiration ! On one side the American, trembling for his little girl, who seemed devoted to destruction : on the other a generous mariner exposing his life for a child not his own ; and here the whole crew raising their hands to heaven on seeing young Volney contending with an enemy so greatly superior, and encountering inevitable death to divert it from his father ! Who can view a scene like this without dissolving into tears of tenderness ?

The combat was too unequal, and no refuge remained but in a speedy retreat. Several ropes were quickly thrown out to the father and the son, and each succeeded in seizing one. They were hastily drawn up ; already they were more than fifteen feet above the surface of the water ; already cries of joy were heard : " Here they are ! here they are !—they are saved !" Alas ! no—they were not saved ! At least one victim was to be sacrificed. Enraged at seeing his prey about to escape him, the shark plunged with a vigorous spring, and darted forward like lightning, with his sharp teeth he tore asunder the body of the intrepid and unfortunate youth while suspended in the air. A part of his palpitating and lifeless body was drawn up to the ship, with the father and the little girl.

Thus died, at the age of twelve years, this hopeful young sailor, who deserved a better fate. When we reflect on the generous action which he performed, and the sacred motive by which he was animated to the enterprise, we are penetrated with sorrow to see him sink under it. Yet these great examples cannot be lost. The memory of them does not perish with the individual who gave them. A faithful relation of them cannot but animate with a generous zeal the tender

minds of youth, and produce from age to age the repetition of actions not less praiseworthy.

JEREMIAH HORROX.

Of all the sciences cultivated by man, none has so direct a tendency to elevate his mind with noble sentiments, and to inspire him with a conviction of the infinite power, wisdom, and goodness of the Supreme Being, the Creator and Governor of the universe, as astronomy.

What can equal the contemplation of the numerous glories which adorn the canopy of heaven, when all nature is hushed into a still serenity, and no discordant sounds are heard, or busy scenes present themselves to perplex the mind and to distract the attention !

Man alone, of all the inhabitants of this globe, is capable of making observations upon the innumerable worlds which are scattered throughout the regions of space.

It should seem then, therefore, to be a part of his duty, as it is his peculiar privilege, so to contemplate the celestial bodies, as to gain just notions of the universe, and becoming

ideas of that boundless intelligence which not only created but preserves the whole in the exactest symmetry and order.

The soul of man was made to walk the skies ;
 Delightful outlet of her prison here !
 There, disencumber'd from her chains, the ties
 Of toys terrestrial, she can rove at large ;
 There freely can respire, dilate, extend
 In full proportion, let loose all her powers.

YOUNG's Night Thoughts.

In the cultivation of this sublime science of astronomy, our countrymen have eminently distinguished themselves. The illustrious Newton has fixed its principles ; and many other great men, by the construction of instruments, the calculation of tables, and the accuracy of their observations, have rendered the study easy and delightful. Among others, to whom we are indebted for valuable discoveries, the subject of the present memoir is entitled to distinguished respect.

Jeremiah Horrox was born at a village called Toxteth, near Liverpool, in 1619. When very young, he was placed under a country schoolmaster, whom he soon surpassed, and afterwards was for a short time a student of Emanuel college, Cambridge. But at the age of fourteen we find him at home with his father, assiduously engaged in the study of astronomy. His circumstances were very moderate, and at that time there

were but few books of practical utility upon the subject of his favourite science, and those were scarce and dear. At present there are many excellent works, which, in a plain and perspicuous manner, will enable the young inquirer to gain a knowledge of the celestial bodies : and the author of this memoir has peculiar satisfaction in recommending a volume lately published, entitled "The Wonders of the Telescope," in which the system of the universe is not only explained in a very easy manner, but the engravings are so admirably executed as to convey to the eye an exact view of the heavenly orbs.

Young Horrox had no other helps than a few Latin authors, as Lansbergius, Tycho Brahe, and Kepler ; who, though they were men of profound knowledge, did not write in a pleasing or familiar style.

The love of science, however, was so ardent in his bosom, that, without any other tutor than these obscure books, he gained a most extensive and accurate knowledge of astronomy, and the branches of mathematical learning connected with it. About 1635, he contracted an intimate friendship with Mr. William Crabtree, who lived near Manchester, and who was also an excellent mathematician, and an indefatigable observer.

With this gentleman young Horrox kept up a regular correspondence ; and it is from the letters which passed between these ingenious persons, that these few particulars, concerning Mr. Horrox, have been gathered.

Having now met with a companion whose genius resembled his own, our juvenile astronomer pursued his studies with increased ardour. He procured astronomical instruments, with which he made many curious observations ; one of which was very extraordinary, and is that which immortalized his name. This was of the famous transit of Venus over the sun in 1639.

The famous Kepler, in his tables, had predicted that this transit, or passage, of the planet Venus over the disk of the sun, would happen in 1631 ; and the celebrated Gassendi, whose life we have already given, looked for it at Paris in that year, but in vain.

When Mr. Horrox first applied himself to astronomy, he constructed ephemerides or almanacks for himself, from which he was able to discover, not only the errors in the tables which had been published, but to ascertain exactly the situations of the planets, their conjunctions, appulses to the fixed stars, and the most remarkable phenomena that would happen in the heavens.

It was thus that he found Kepler's mistake in placing the transit of Venus in the year

1631 instead of 1639. Accordingly, in a letter to his friend Crabtree, dated at Hool, near Liverpool, October 26, 1639, he communicated his discovery to him, earnestly desiring him to make what observations he could with his telescope. This his friend readily complied with ; and, agreeably to Mr. Horrox's calculation, the transit was observed by them, November 24, 1639, they being the first persons who were ever favoured with such a sight.

By his observations on this uncommon sight, Mr. Horrox was enabled to measure the diameter of Venus, and to determine the latitude and longitude of the place of his residence ; all which he performed with wonderful accuracy.

He continued to prosecute his studies and inquiries with equal ardour, and would doubtless have rendered still more service to the interests of science, had he not been cut off in the flower of his age, January 3, 1640.

What we have of his writings, gives us some idea of the great loss which the world sustained by his death. He had just finished his book, entitled " Venus in Sole visa ;" or " Venus seen in the Sun," a little before his death. This excellent performance was published by the eminent astronomer Hevelius, at Dantzick, with annotations. The other papers and letters of Mr. Horrox were print-

ed by that learned mathematician, Dr. John Wallis : and it deserves notice, that the new theory of lunar motion contained in these posthumous papers of this surprising youth, was made use of by the immortal Sir Isaac Newton, as the groundwork of his astronomy relative to that planet ; and that great man always spoke of Mr. Horrox as a genius of the very first rank.

We cannot conclude this brief notice of this most ingenious young man, without again recommending to our juvenile readers, a science, which, whatever may be their destination in life, will be found necessary to the right improvement of the human mind ; and a total ignorance of which cannot but be considered as culpable in an age when the means of acquiring knowledge are so numerous and easy.

Come forth, O man ! yon azure round survey,
And view those lamps, which yield eternal day.
Bring forth thy glasses ; clear thy wond'ring eyes ;
Millions beyond the former millions rise :
Look further :—millions more blaze from remoter skies.

THOMAS GARRATT.

THOMAS GARRATT was the son of Mr. Francis Garratt, wholesale tea-dealer, near London Bridge, and he died, at the age of thirteen, on the 8th of March, 1798, at his father's house at Blackheath, deeply regretted, having less than a week before his decease, appeared to be in the full vigour and bloom of health.

As youth is powerfully influenced by praise, and is forward to imitate ; and as departed merit, whatever stage of life it may have adorned, has, if acknowledged to be remarkable, a claim on posthumous notice ; it cannot be judged improper to delineate the character and attainments of Thomas Garratt : but this sketch cannot be materially useful to others, nor can sufficient regard be preserved to the rules of proportion, unless the features of the portrait be minutely as well as faithfully drawn. Still, however, though the general outline and the prominent lineaments will be clearly traced, it aspires only to the title of an imperfect copy, and will be destitute of many of those delicate touches of which it is susceptible. Though executed by the hand

of friendship, it will not be coloured by the pencil of flattery.

The far greater part of his education he received at home, together with two of his brothers, under the vigilant eye of his mother. By the force of his own genius, by the exclusion of temptations to indolence, by habits of early rising, by a frequent interchange of employment, by much personal attendance of tutors, and by a strict adherence to regularity of plan, much was accomplished. To arithmetic, to geometry, and to astronomy, he had paid considerable attention, and the Mathematical Dictionary of Dr. Hutton was one of the books of which he was most fond. In grammar he had arrived at a distinguished proficiency; and even in the subordinate but not unimportant subject of punctuation he possessed much minuteness of information. The French tongue he spoke with as much fluency, and nearly as much correctness, as the English. He read and he conversed in the Italian; and he made great progress in the Greek and Latin languages, and considerable advances in the German; unaided by the use of translations, which cherish idleness, which conceal ignorance, which flatter dulness, and which, as they are commonly employed, at once retard the growth and undermine the permanency of improvement. With the biography, the history, and the geography

of ancient times, he had an extensive acquaintance ; and any disputed point on those subjects, or on chronology, was capable of powerfully interesting his attention, and of inciting him to researches among different authors. Nor was his geographical, historic, and biographical knowledge, as relating to modern ages, though unquestionably less conspicuous, circumscribed within narrow limits. In the elegances, as well as in the exactness, of English composition, he had attained to no small skill ; for to this much of his time had been devoted ; and if the period of life at which he arrived be considered, he must be pronounced to have possessed fertility of imagination, great accuracy of judgment, and great delicacy of taste. Of these qualities of the mind indisputable evidences were afforded by the remarks which he made when he read, as well as by the compositions which he produced. The latter were extremely numerous. Some of them filled a considerable number of pages ; and in all of those which were written in the last year of his life, though exuberances, which it were better to cut away, occasionally occurred, different beauties of style were interspersed. They were of various kinds ; and sometimes they were distinguished by novel illustration, sometimes by cogency of argument, sometimes by a felicity in the choice of words, some-

times by a judicious and skilful arrangement of the contents, and sometimes by a pertinent and copious accumulation of facts. He had, indeed, a quick sensibility to literary excellence. He felt and admired, in the several languages in which they wrote, the wit of Plautus, Boileau, and Fontaine ; the perspicuity of diction in Xenophon and Cæsar, Cebes, and Arrian ; the judgment of Virgil, Metastasio, Addison, and Pope ; the elegance of Isocrates and Nepos, of Hawkesworth and Barbauld, of Jean Baptiste Rousseau and Harris of Salisbury ; the sublimity of Homer and Milton ; the beautiful morality in Fænelon and Rollin ; the vigour and genius in Tasso and Dryden, in Congreve and Fawcett ; the eloquence of Sallust and of Florus ; the energy of Johnson ; the pathetic tenderness of Racine and of Sterne ; the acumen of Hooke and Voltaire in historic reflections ; the descriptive powers of Dyer, Thomson, and Goldsmith, of Shenstone, Sévigné, and Gray ; and the masterly delineation of character in Shakspeare, in Schrœder, and in Goldoni. But he was not accustomed merely to feel the beauties of celebrated productions ; for it may reasonably be doubted, whether there is any of these merits of any one of these writers which has not constituted one of the topics of his conversation. To politics, as a science, his attention had not

been pointed ; but into the great events, successively exhibited on the theatre of Europe, he inquired with that ardour of solicitude which is generally characteristic of the man long practised in the affairs, and deeply interested in the revolutions of the world. A happy fund of native humour he frequently displayed. On any subject with which he was acquainted he could speak extempore with readiness, with energy, with vivacity of conception, and with no small degree of propriety. Of his growing excellency as a speaker, as this is a habit susceptible of perpetual improvements, it would, indeed, have been difficult to have formed too elevated expectations. In a kindred accomplishment, to which he had much longer attended, little remained for him to learn. When he recited from memory, to a small circle of relations or friends, any composition in prose or poetry, his delivery was highly interesting and impressive, and commanded approbation ; for he possessed a memory accurate and retentive ; a promptitude and perspicuity of discernment ; action varied, graceful, and appropriate ; features uncommonly beautiful, and capable of being instantaneously lighted up ; and a voice powerful, yet surpassing in sweetness, of singular flexibility, and skilfully modulated ; and it was difficult to decide

whether he excelled in softness or in strength, in repeating the calm productions of didactic composition, or those of eloquence and wit. Such were the principal acquisitions of Thomas Garratt. When snatched by death from his friends, he was not thirteen years and a half old. Attached to literature as he was, he confined not himself within its limits. Into the cause of things he was eager to penetrate. External nature had, in his eyes, numerous charms ; and its diversified appearances and products appeared to him to *demand* investigation. That he would hereafter have viewed human nature also with a penetrating glance, and have nicely discriminated the varying proportions of light and shade in different characters, his observations clearly evinced.

That he was eminent for industry will perhaps be concluded. But though this be an encomium to which he had not any peculiar claim, his industry, within the last eighteen months of his life, was considerably increased ; and he was still more estimable for the qualities of the heart than for those of the understanding. His general behaviour (and this is a happy medium rarely attended to in the dawn of life) was equally remote from the bashfulness which disconcerts, and from the confidence which elates. Though highly accomplished, he was destitute of pride ;

though ambitious of praise, he was perfectly free from envy and jealousy : whilst sprightly in his conversation, and gay in his disposition, his character was exalted by piety, and he had a strong conviction of the importance of virtue. Generosity and disinterestedness predominated in his conduct, and gratitude in his breast was a principle of vigorous operation. Forgiveness, in case of any injury or affront, whether supposed or real, appeared to be in him a virtue for the practice of which no effort was requisite. He was graceful and attractive in his manners ; his flow of spirits was scarcely ever subject either to languor or to intermission ; and he seemed formed to enjoy and to communicate pleasure. Cold indifference to the interests of others was a stranger to his bosom ; the quickness of his tread, the illumination of his face, and the expression of his fine eyes, often announced to his relations and his friends his warmth of attachment and eagerness to oblige ; and small indeed is the number of those whom disease has cut down so early in the spring of life, who will be remembered with equal tenderness by an equally large proportion of their acquaintance. But his excellences did not generate supineness. Moral improvement was with him an object of serious and not unfrequent meditation ; and he had in fact, within the last two years, made percep-

tible progress in the cultivation of several virtues.

The nature also of his *amusements*, or the manner in which he entered into them, indicated the bright or the amiable qualities of his mind ; and, when viewed in connexion with his solid acquisitions, justified the conclusion, that he exhibited the probable passages and inherited the genuine stamina of future greatness. Among the methods of relaxation, which his own inclination suggested, were miscellaneous reading and rational conversation : in the former his choice of books ; in the latter the questions he proposed, the anecdotes he related, the arguments he urged, evinced his usual ripeness of intellect and versatility of talents. Possessed of a well-disciplined eye, and a steady hand, he was singularly dexterous in the use of a refracting telescope ; and being acquainted with the situation of a number of the constellations and of many single stars, he pointed to them with an admirable degree of celerity. Having melted pieces of glass, he endeavoured to polish them, that they might serve as lenses, and he formed an hygrometer. The pen, the pencil, the chess-board, and the tools of the carpenter, were by him regarded equally as the instruments of amusement ; and the atlas and the globe, the barometer and the thermometer, each, in its turn, supplied him

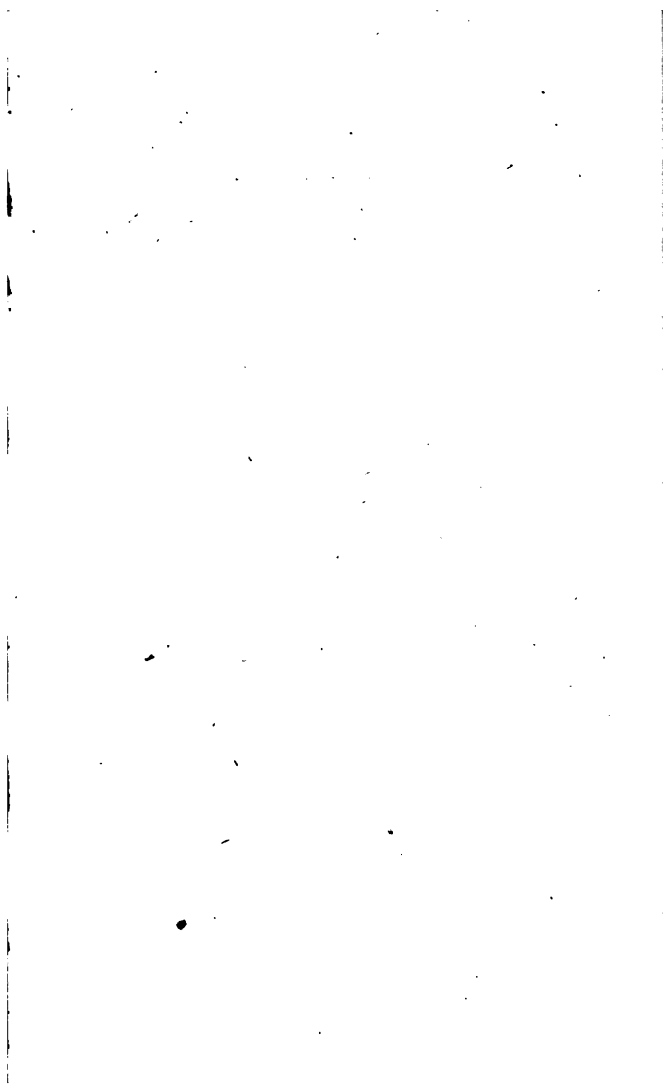
entertainment. In the drawings which he executed, sometimes in a finished style, and sometimes with more than ordinary rapidity, taste and genius were discoverable ; nor did he tread in only one or two walks of the art. In the difficult game of chess, though opposed by various competitors, and by some of long experience and tried skill, he was rarely conquered ; and his hand-writing, in ease, in decision of character, in exquisite beauty, was surpassed by very few men of the most acknowledged eminence in penmanship. But his sedentary or domestic amusements, no more than his studies, were permitted to impair the stoutness of his limbs, the clearness of his complexion, or the crimson colour of his cheeks. Of gardening he was particularly fond. Careless of fatigue, and patient of heat and cold, he spent much time in the open air, discovering, in his recreations, an uncommon share of animation and activity, of courage and a spirit of enterprise ; and, when he was merely walking, his taste was particularly displayed in his remarks on the picturesque objects and the glowing tints of the distant landscape ; and his vigilant curiosity was particularly excited by the diversities of the insect tribe, and by the varied productions of the vegetable world.

JAMES HAY BEATTIE.

JAMES HAY BEATTIE was the son of the learned and ingenious Dr. Beattie, professor of moral philosophy and logic in the Marischal College or University of New Aberdeen in Scotland ; and was born in 1768.

His mildness and docility were such, that the Doctor had never occasion to reprove him above three or four times ; bodily chastisement he never experienced at all. The first rules of morality taught him by this affectionate parent, were, To speak the truth and keep a secret : " and I never found," says he, " that in a single instance he transgressed either. The doctrines of religion I wished to impress on his mind, as soon as it might be prepared to receive them ; but I did not see," adds Dr. B. " the propriety of making him commit to memory theological sentences, or any sentences which it was not possible for him to understand ; and I was desirous to make a trial how far his own reason could go in tracing out, with a little direction, the great and first principle of all religion, the being of a God."

When he attained his fifth or sixth year, and had as yet received no particular infor-



JAMES HAY BEATTIE.



On discovering his name growing in the garden, the child was astonished.

mation with respect to the Author of his being, his father recurred to an ingenious device for this purpose. In a corner of a little garden, without informing any person of the circumstance, he wrote in the mould with his finger the three initials of his son's name, and sowing cresses in the furrows, covered up the seed, and smoothed the ground. On discovering "his name growing in the garden," the child was astonished, and on being told it might be accidental, he denied that such a circumstance could be the effect of chance. On this the Doctor, alluding to his own person, and teaching him to reason from analogy, found that he already comprehended, *that what begins to be, must have a cause, and what is formed with regularity, must have an intelligent cause.* "I therefore told him," says he, "the name of the Great Being who made him and all the world; concerning whose adorable nature I gave him such information as I thought he could in some measure comprehend. The lesson affected him greatly, and he never forgot either it or the circumstance that introduced it."

His father and mother taught him to write, and they appear to have been studious to prevent a provincial accent. When he had attained his seventh year, he attended the grammar school of Aberdeen, where he acquired the

elements of the Latin tongue ; he also studied Ovid and Virgil at home, under the inspection of his father. About the same time he was accustomed to, and arrived at, considerable proficiency in drawing, and “in ludicrous *caricatura* he had, boundless invention.” His constitution being delicate, and finding him inclined rather too much to study, his provident father, as soon as he could handle a small musket, put him under the tuition of a sergeant, who taught him the military exercise. An expert fencing-master was next employed, and archery, and, in short, every thing was resorted to that might add to his muscular strength and personal dexterity.

At the age of thirteen he was entered a student of the Marischal College, and he attended the various classes no less than five years, a year more than is usually thought necessary at that university to qualify for the degree of A. M. which he obtained in 1786.

About this time he applied himself in order to obtain a knowledge of the Linnæan system ; he also studied theology under Drs. Campbell and Gerard : “but this was not,” we are told, “the commencement of his theological pursuits ; for from his early youth he had studied the holy scriptures, which he justly thought to contain the only infallible

system of Christian faith. When he went from home, if he meant to be absent a few weeks or days, he took with him a pocket Bible, and a Greek New Testament."

To a young man so qualified, and educated in a great measure within its own walls, the university of Aberdeen was of course eager to exhibit some mark of its regard, and the professors accordingly recommended him to his Majesty as a proper person to be appointed assistant professor of moral philosophy and logic to his own father, which was accordingly done when he was not quite nineteen.

He now devoted himself to those studies most appropriate to his new situation, and read the best writers on the abstract philosophy, particularly Dr. Reid, Dr. Campbell, Bishop Butler, Dr. Clarke, and Mr. Baxter ; and such was his progress, that he appears to have fully comprehended Baxter, Butler, and Clarke's demonstration, *à priori*, of the divine existence.

He now applied to music, and learned to perform upon the organ and violin, studying at the same time the theory of the art in the works of Pasquali and Holder ; and that he might see the theory exemplified, he perused the compositions of Handel, Corelli, Geminiani, Avison, and Jackson, the musical authors who stood the highest in his esteem. " The music just now in vogue had no charms for

him," observes his father : " he said it wanted simplicity, pathos, and harmony ; and in the execution depended so much on rapidity of finger, or what may be called slight of hand, that practitioners must throw away more time than he could spare before they could acquire any dexterity in it. He was delighted with the sweet and classical correctness of Corelli, and with the affecting melodies of Jackson, so well adapted to the words that accompany them : but the variety and sublimity of Handel's invention filled him with rapture and astonishment. He thought him the Shakspeare of music, or rather the Shakspeare and Milton united : and many of his simpler songs he could sing very agreeably, enforcing their expression with a thorough bass on the organ.

" He was pleased likewise with some of the ancient Scotch and Welch airs, but made no account of the quick jigging Scotch tunes, though he did not think them all equally bad. He had studied *counterpoint*, and was profoundly skilled in it : I find among his papers a great deal written on that subject ; and I have seen fugues of his contrivance which would not had discredited a more experienced musician."

In the mean time young Mr. Beattie cultivated a taste for poetry, after his father was satisfied that he possessed a poetical genius.

But in the midst of his career this promising youth began to be afflicted with disease, and, notwithstanding the counteracting power of the manly exercises to which his father very prudently had accustomed him, his constitution seems to have been weakly during the whole period of his short life.

Observing, in 1788, that his health had suffered from fatigues of the preceding winter, his parent sent him to pass the summer at Peterhead ; and as he had a genius for mechanics, and was master of the theory of organ-building, with Dr. Laing's assistance he contrived to build an organ for himself.


Some weeks before the commencement of his last illness, he obtained his father's approbation to his studying medicine, not for the purpose of appearing in the world as a physician, or of accepting money for his prescriptions, but because he was anxious of relieving the sufferings of his fellow-creatures, and, " would fain be useful occasionally to his friends, and the poor especially."

At length, during the night of the 30th of November 1789, he was suddenly seized with a fever, which threatened his immediate dissolution ; and although he lived a year longer, he was never afterwards able to engage in any serious study. His disease, which was termed a nervous atrophy, daily as-

suming a more fatal appearance, he at length finished his mortal career, without a groan or even a sigh, November 19, 1790.

The last sad and melancholy duty on the part of his unhappy father, was the publication of the posthumous works of his son, of whom he concludes an interesting account as follows.

“ I have lost,” says he, “ the pleasantest, and, for the last four or five years of his short life, one of the most instructive companions that ever man was delighted with. But—
THE LORD GAVE ; THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY : BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD ! I adore the Author of all good, who gave him grace to lead such a life, and die such a death, as makes it impossible to doubt of his having entered upon the inheritance of a happy immortality.”



SIR WILLIAM PETTY.

Nothing can be more pleasing and instructive than to observe the progress of great talents, virtue, and industry, from obscurity to distinction and wealth.

Riches and honours are real blessings, when possessed by those who have acquired them by merit, or who know how properly to estimate and use them. Neither is an ancient and noble lineage to be undervalued, since it may be properly considered as a stimulus to worthy deeds, and a restraint from mean actions.

But it is more glorious to be the founder of a family, and to leave behind, for the imitation of posterity, a name distinguished for active virtue and well-applied ingenuity.

These remarks are supported and elucidated in the life of the celebrated Sir William Petty, the direct ancestor of the Marquis of Lansdowne ; and who, by his indefatigable industry, acquired the princely fortune at present possessed by that noble family.

He was the eldest son of a clothier at Rumsey, in Hampshire, and was born in that town in 1623. While he was very young he took great delight in conversing with artificers, such as smiths, carpenters, and joiners, and imitating their several occupations, which he performed with great dexterity and ingenuity at twelve years of age. At that time he went to the grammar school of his native town, and before he had attained his fifteenth year, he was well acquainted with the Latin, Greek, and French languages, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, navigation, dialling, and

other branches of mathematics and mechanics.

After this he went to the university of Caen in Normandy, where he maintained himself by engaging in a little merchandising, and thus was enabled to perfect his studies in the French language and the sciences : a remarkable and laudable instance of industry and love of learning.

On his return to England he entered into the royal navy, where he saved about sixty pounds, which was a considerable sum in those days. With this money he went, for his further improvement, into the Netherlands, and from thence to Paris, where he studied anatomy. During his residence abroad he still continued his application to trade, which, indeed, was necessary, considering the smallness of his fortune.

At the age of twenty-four he obtained a patent from parliament for teaching the art of double writing, of which he gives the following description in a letter to a friend :—
“ It is an instrument of small bulk and price, easily made, and very durable, whereby any man, even at the first sight and handling, may write two resembling copies of the same thing at once, as serviceably and as fast (allowing two lines upon each page on setting the instruments) as by the ordinary way ; of what nature, or in what character, or what matter

soever, as paper, parchment, a book, &c. the said writing ought to be made upon. The use hereof will be very great to lawyers and scriveners, for making of indentures, and all kinds of counterparts; to merchants, &c. for copying of letters, accounts, invoices, entering of warrants, and other records; to scholars for transcribing of rare manuscripts, and preserving originals from falsification, and other injuries of time.

“ It lesseneth the labour of examination, serveth to discover forgeries and surreptitious copies, and to the transacting of all business of writing, as with ease and speed, so with privacy also.”

It appears that this useful instrument of his had been made some years before, and was the result of that application to mathematical and mechanical studies which formed the amusement of his boyish days: from which youths may learn this valuable and encouraging lesson,—that early acquirements in learning and science, by taking deep root in the mind, may at a future period prove beneficial to the production of important discoveries.

The year following, Mr. Petty published a very valuable work on practical education, in which he recommended seminaries, wherein children should be taught to do something to-

ward their living, as well as to read and write. Experience had convinced him of this important truth, that knowledge is only to be valued when it is applied to useful purposes, and becomes an assistant to industry. He was also of opinion, that children of the highest rank should be taught some genteel occupation, such as turning curious figures, the construction of mathematical instruments, and particularly the art of building small ships, with the manner of rigging and sailing them. Certainly nothing can be conceived more pleasing than such employments, by which, while young persons are amused, they acquire a habit of industrious application, the right use of time, and lay the foundation of principles, which at a future period may render them eminently serviceable to their country.

About this time Mr. Petty went to the university of Oxford, where he taught anatomy with great reputation, and was created Doctor of Physic. He was also one of those ingenious persons who met occasionally for the purpose of making philosophical experiments, which laid the foundation of that famous institution, afterwards formed by charter from king Charles the Second, under the name of the Royal Society. In 1651, Mr. Petty was appointed professor of anatomy at

Oxford, and the year following he went to Ireland, as physician to the army.

While in that kingdom he made some valuable purchases of lands, which had been forfeited in the great rebellion.

After the restoration of Charles the Second he was knighted and made surveyor-general of Ireland, where he engaged in mercantile concerns, which turned to a very profitable account. But he was still indefatigable in his scientific pursuits ; and paid particular attention to ship-building, in which he made several improvements. He died in Westminster, in 1687.

This remarkable person, who was of strict integrity and of irreproachable morals, left behind him an estate worth more than 10,000*l.* a-year, all acquired by his own industry.

COLIN MACLAURIN.

THIS great mathematician was born of an ancient family, in Argyleshire, in Scotland, in 1686. Six weeks after his birth he had the misfortune to lose his father ; but this loss was compensated by the tender care and affection of his mother.

At the age of nine years, however, by her death, the guardianship of him devolved to his uncle, who paid particular attention to his education, and in 1709 placed him under Mr. Carmichael, an eminent professor in the university of Glasgow. Here he prosecuted his studies with uncommon diligence and success.

When he was twelve years of age he happened accidentally to meet with Euclid's Elements in the chamber of a friend. This book so powerfully engaged his attention, that he borrowed it, and in a few days made himself master of the first six books, without the least assistance.

From thence he pursued his inquiries further into the noble science of geometry, and in a short time was enabled to solve the most curious and difficult problems. It is certain that about this time he had invented many of the propositions which are contained in his *Geometria Organica*; and there is every reason to believe, that among the earliest productions of his genius and application may be reckoned two papers which were afterwards thought worthy of insertion in the Philosophical Transactions; one, on the construction and measurement of curves; and the other, a new method of describing all kinds of curves.

In his fifteenth year he took the degree of

master of arts, after which he left the university and went to live at his uncle's house in the country, in which delightful retirement he continued his mathematical studies, though not to the exclusion of other branches of learning.

He was well acquainted with the best works in philosophy, ancient and modern, particularly the profound and inestimable *Principia* of Sir Isaac Newton ; a performance which, at that period, was considered as beyond the comprehension of any but the most learned mathematicians.

Mr. Maclaurin had also a fine taste for the classic authors, which he read with peculiar pleasure ; nor did he pass by the productions of modern writers of elegance in prose and verse. These he accustomed himself to read at his leisure hours, especially when, during the intervals of his studies, he used to climb the lofty hills among which he lived. The grand and beautiful scenery which, in those excursions, caught his eye, inspired him with the noblest sentiments, which he frequently expressed in a hymn or poetic effusion on the beauties of nature, and the wisdom and goodness of its Divine Author.

At the early age of nineteen, when other young men are attending the lessons of instructors, or dissipating their time in idle and extravagant amusements, Mr. Maclaurin was

appointed, after a comparative trial of ten days, with a very able competitor, professor of mathematics in the Marischal College of Aberdeen.

During a vacation from the duties of his office, he took the opportunity of travelling to London, where he formed an intimacy with Dr. Samuel Clarke, and several other learned men, but above all, with Sir Isaac Newton, whose friendship he ever after esteemed the greatest honour and happiness of his life.

At this time he was also elected a fellow of the Royal Society, to whose transactions he contributed many valuable papers ; as he also did to the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris ; one of which, on the percussion of bodies, obtained a prize in 1724.

The year following he was chosen professor of mathematics in the university of Edinburgh, chiefly by the recommendation and kind offices of Sir Isaac Newton.

Here there were generally above an hundred young gentlemen attending his lecture every year. These pupils he divided into four or five classes, in each of which he employed a full hour every day, from the 1st of November to the 1st of June : in the first or lowest class he taught the first six books of Euclid's Elements, plain trigonometry, practical geometry, mensuration, the elements of

fortification, and an introduction to algebra. The second class studied algebra, the eleventh and twelfth books of Euclid, spherical trigonometry, conic sections, and the general principles of astronomy. The third class went on in astronomy and perspective, read a part of Sir Isaac Newton's principles of mathematical philosophy, and had a course of experiments for illustrating them performed and explained to them.

Those who composed the fourth class read a system of fluxions, the doctrine of chances, and the remainder of Newton's principles.

In 1742 he published his treatise on fluxions, a work which is superior to all praise. About this time we find him engaged in promoting several public works of great utility ; such as the building an astronomical observatory at Edinburgh ; a plan for improving the natural history and settling the geography of the Orkney and Shetland islands ; and another for discovering a north-east passage to the South Seas.

But while he was thus employed, the rebellion broke out in Scotland in favour of the Pretender ; and as Mr. Maclaurin had exerted himself in defence of the king and religion, as by law established, he was under the necessity of withdrawing to England when the rebels approached Edinburgh. He was hospitably entertained by the Archbishop of

York, who had a great esteem for him, and kept up a regular correspondence with him after his return to Edinburgh.

Soon after this he fell dangerously ill of a dropsy, which disorder was heightened by the fatigue and agitation he had undergone. Still he continued his favourite studies, and employed himself in finishing his excellent account of Sir Isaac Newton's philosophical discoveries. While he was dictating the conclusion of this work, in which he proves, in the noblest manner, the wisdom, power, goodness, and other attributes of the Deity, his amanuensis observed a remarkable alteration in his voice and manner. No pulse could then be felt, and his hands and feet were already cold. Notwithstanding this extremely weak condition, he sat in his chair and conversed with his friend Dr. Munro, with his usual serenity and strength of reasoning, desiring the doctor to account for a phenomenon which he then observed in himself. Flashes of fire seemed to dart from his eyes, while in the meantime, his sight was failing, so that he could scarcely distinguish one object from another. He then desired to be laid on his bed, where, with all the tranquillity and fervent piety of a christian, he expired without any pain or struggle, June 4, 1746. Dr. Munro, who pronounced his eulogium at the next meeting of the university, after displaying the

acute intellectual powers and extensive learning of his deceased friend, observed that he was still more to be admired for his superior qualities of the heart, for his sincere love of God and men, his convivial benevolence and unaffected piety, and for the warmth and constancy of his friendship.

ANNA MARIA SCHURMAN.

THIS highly accomplished woman was born at Cologne, in 1607, and was descended from a noble family in that city.

From her childhood she showed an uncommon capacity and strength of understanding ; at three years of age she was able to read extremely well, and at six she could, with a knife and scissars, cut out curious figures, such as animals and landscapes, in paper. As she advanced in years her mental talents increased wonderfully, and so in a nequal degree did her desire of learning. She never rested until she had obtained the object of her inquiry ; and she was possessed of so quick and penetrating a genius, that she easily comprehended the most intricate subjects.

In her very infancy she applied herself to painting, in which she executed flowers and insects with a most lively resemblance to nature. It is likewise related of her, that without any other instrument than a knife, she cut out, in box, the bust of herself, her mother, and brother, so very curious, and such striking likenesses, as to astonish all who saw them. Even the first-rate artists beheld them with admiration ; and the celebrated painter, Honthurst, valued that of her brother at a very considerable sum.

At seven years of age she learned the art of embroidering in three hours ; and in a little time she became mistress of music, both vocal and instrumental. Her writing, in the characters of various languages, was pronounced inimitable ; and persons of the finest taste and judgment considered themselves as obliged in getting some specimens for their cabinets of curiosities.

She modelled her own bust in wax, at a looking-glass, and decorated it afterwards with artificial pearls of her own making, which many persons imagined were real, till they were convinced of the contrary by pricking them with a needle.

Still these various pursuits were only relaxations from her studies, which she followed with such intenseness of application, that

at the age of eleven she instructed her brothers in their lessons.

Her father perceiving her uncommon thirst for knowledge, gave her Seneca's morals to read, and took such great delight in aiding her inclination, that comparatively in a very short time she not only understood the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, Chaldee, Arabic and Ethiopic languages, but also the English, French, and Italian. She was also well versed in geography, astronomy, and philosophy, and had a competent acquaintance with history and divinity.

With all this various and profound knowledge, she was remarkable for the humility of her disposition. Her prodigious acquirements, and the fame which they procured her, did not make her proud, or lead her into a vain conceit of her abilities.

At the age of fourteen she was courted in marriage by a gentleman of high rank and great wealth; but after deliberate consideration, she declined the flattering offer, and devoted herself to a single life.

If any doubts could be entertained of the truth of the surprising things recorded of her literary accomplishments, they must be completely dispelled when it is known that her merits were celebrated by such men as Rivetus, Vossius, Spanheim, Salmasius, and Huygens. Those great scholars were proud of

her correspondence, and by their means she became the friend of Gassendi, Balzac, Mer-sennus, Bochart, and other famous men in France.

Her fame, indeed, was so universally spread, that personages of the most exalted rank honoured her with their company and confidence.

When Christina, queen of Sweden, paid her a visit, and entered into a familiar conversation with her, Anna secretly took a likeness of her majesty, which was so exceedingly striking as to excite the admiration and astonishment of all who beheld it.

The first thing published by this extraordinary woman was a Latin poem on the institution of the university of Utrecht, in 1636 ; but afterwards the famous professor of divinity, Spanheim, of Leyden, prevailed with her to print several learned performances in Hebrew, Latin, Greek, and French. This surprising monument of female genius was published in 1648, under the title of the " Smaller Works of Anna Maria Schurman."

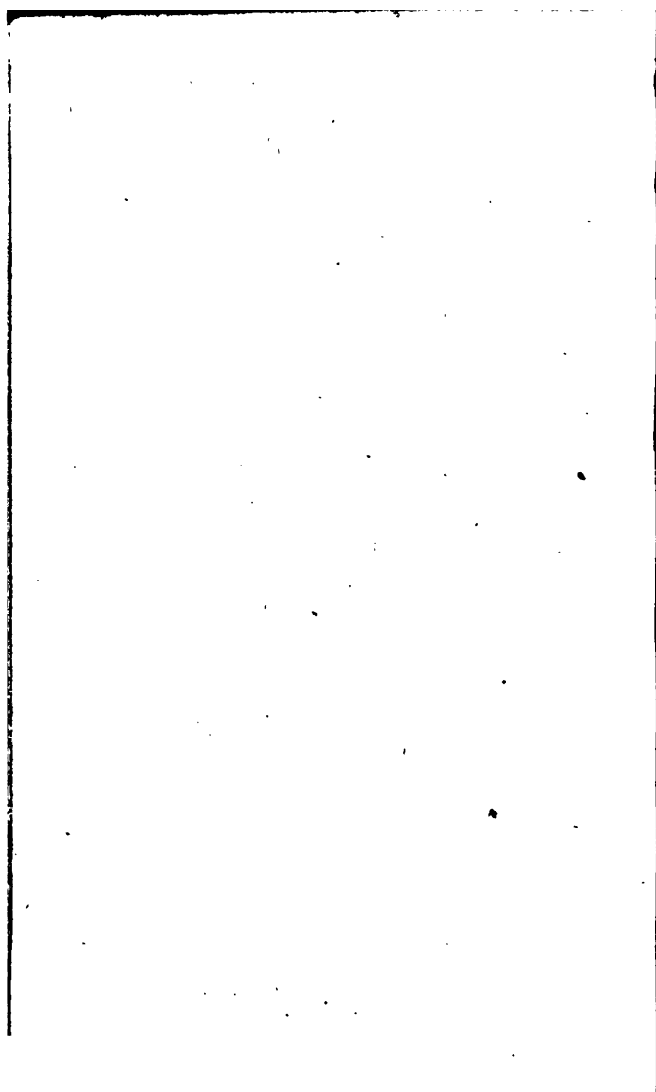
This learned lady died at Weiwert, a village in Holland, in 1678, after having recommended her soul to the Almighty with sentiments of fervent devotion and resignation.

ANNA MARIA SCHURMAN.



When Christina, queen of Sweden, paid her a visit, and entered into a familiar conversation with her, Anna secretly took a likeness of her majesty.

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JOHN PICUS, OF MIRANDULA.

THIS illustrious scholar, who adorned his high birth by the most brilliant talents as well as by his pre-eminent virtues, was the son of John Francis Picus, Prince of Mirandula in Italy, and born there February 24, 1462.

He was but an infant when his father died ; and the care of his education devolved upon his mother, who provided him with the best masters in every accomplishment which at that period was deemed necessary to form the gentleman and the scholar. His progress in polite learning was such as to surpass the most sanguine expectations of his friends, who were astonished to perceive in a mere child, maturity of judgment, vigour of intellect, and correctness of taste in the composition both of prose and verse, which would have done credit to learned professors.

Such was his quickness of apprehension, that he understood at once ; and such the strength of his recollection, that he retained with the greatest ease, all the instructions of his preceptors. Of the powers of his memory, indeed, the most surprising particulars are related. If he heard a poem once recited,

he could not only repeat the whole exactly in order without missing a single word, but he could also repeat the same backwards, beginning with the last line, and so on to the first.

Being early designed by his mother for the church, Picus was sent at the age of fourteen, at which age he was well versed in the Latin language, to the university of Bologna to study the pontifical or canon law, which was deemed essential to form the character of an accomplished ecclesiastic.

To this dry and uninteresting study, grounded only on remote customs and obscure traditions, he applied with great patience and perseverance for two years ; thus setting a laudable example of dutiful obedience to parental judgment and partiality, even to the sacrifice of those inclinations which would have led his ardent mind to different and more pleasing pursuits.

During this period he composed an abbreviated digest of the pontifical letters or decrees of the popes, so well arranged as to furnish an expeditious mode of deducing from the confused authorities the necessary conclusions.

But the vigorous and speculating mind of Picus was not to be confined to such narrow acquirements. Anxious to grasp all those branches of science which in a great measure constituted the learning of the age in which

he lived, he quitted Bologna, and visited the most celebrated universities of Italy and France, where he courted the acquaintance of every individual scholar and professor of distinction, with whom he entered into minute conversation, for the sake of acquiring knowledge : so that, before he had attained the years of manhood, he was no less universally than deservedly recognised as a most consummate philosopher and divine.

This early display of genius, for which Picus was so remarkable, naturally leads us to conclude that his juvenile days did not pass without producing a variety of compositions worthy of such extraordinary talents and acquirements. In fact, many of his letters which yet remain appear to have been written while he was very young. He very soon distinguished himself as a poet in the Latin and Italian languages ; but it is to be regretted that, from extreme delicacy of sentiment, at a later period he was induced to commit the efforts of his muse to the flames.

Yet the productions of his juvenile pen, had they reached our times, would, perhaps, have been read with much greater interest than those profound speculations of his maturer years, which still remain ; and his classical effusions would have excited universal delight and admiration, while his abstruse speculations only serve to make us lament that

such genius should be wasted on learned trifles.

Of the early letters of Picus, many might be selected which tend greatly to support the high reputation of their author. But in examining the literary character of this wonderful phenomenon, we have to contend with innumerable difficulties, owing to the darkness of the age in which he lived, the superstition in which he was brought up, and by which he was led to sacrifice his truly elegant performances, to studies which were then regarded as indispensable, but which have long since lost their value.

He spent seven years in visiting the various seats of learning ; and it would no doubt be highly interesting, if it were practicable, to follow his steps from place to place, and to witness those bright effusions of genius which rendered him the object of universal admiration, and caused his friendship to be courted by scholars of the highest rank and celebrity.

One of his most intimate friends was the celebrated Politian, with whom he kept up a constant correspondence.

To a very complimentary letter which Politian had sent him, Picus modestly returned this answer : " My obligations to you, Politian, for the praise you bestow upon me, in your last, are proportionable to my consciousness of how much I fall short of deserving

them ; since obligation originates from that which is gratuitously given, and not from that which is paid as a debt. I am, therefore, your debtor for all the handsome things you say of me. As I find in myself nothing that corresponds with your praise ; as you owe me nothing of the kind, the whole must be placed to the account of your peculiar goodwill and partiality for me. If in other respects you duly weigh my pretensions, you will discover nothing but what is trivial, humble, and circumscribed. I am but a *tyranculus*, or a mere novice just advanced one step from the darkness of ignorance, and not further. It would be sufficiently kind in you to place me in the rank of students ; the appellation of learned has something more in it, which applies only to such as yourself. Little do these exalted titles accord with me ; since of the leading branches of science, so far am I from being a master, that I behold them, as it were, through a glass, and with but a distant prospect. I shall however strive, as indeed I now do, to become in future such as you represent me to be at present ; what you are pleased to think, or at least wish me to be."

The uncommon attainments and elegant accomplishments of Picus, were united to such an excellence of disposition, that while they raised the wonder, they at the same time conciliated the esteem of the greatest scholars

who had the good fortune of his acquaintance. Persons at a distance, indeed, and who knew him only by report, would hardly credit the astonishing things which were related of his mental powers.

They were even offended with Politian for speaking so highly of the extensive learning of his friend ; on which occasion, that generous man took an opportunity of sending to one of his correspondents an ingenious epistle written by Picus, in which he had ironically defended a certain class of academic philosophers against Hermolaus Barbarus. " From this letter," said Politian, " you will be able to form some estimate of the talents of Picus ; yet it is to measure, as the proverb says, ' Leonem ab unguibus.' He is indeed in the constant habit of writing largely on one important subject or other ; as his works, daily maturing for publication, will hereafter convince the world : yet now and then he condescends to exercise his pen on these lighter subjects. This very letter, so full, so pointed, so rich in argument, was in a manner the extemporaneous production of a few morning hours. You will, however, see in it select expressions, a truly classical style, attic simplicity, close argument, roundness of period, an agreeable conciseness, a sprightly glow of colouring, happy metaphors, acute reasoning, appropriate elucidation, strong and convincing

argument, solidity of judgment, accuracy of discrimination, uncommon force, ingenuity, and dignity."

Such was the praise which Politian bestowed upon this wonderful youth, when writing in a private manner to a learned professor, at a distance. Praise so bestowed, and so deserved, redounds equally to the honour of Picus and his friend.

At the age of twenty-two, Picus quitted the university of Florence, and devoted himself to a branch of study which at that period had scarcely engaged the attention of learned men. Of this he gives the following account in a letter to Ficinus :—

"Lately," says he, "I devoted a whole month of nightly as well as daily application to the Hebrew tongue. At present I am wholly occupied by the Arabic and Chaldaic; and I do not despair of speedily making the same progress in these languages that I have made in the Hebrew : for in this last I can already dictate a letter, though not with elegance, yet without grammatical inaccuracies.

"You see," he adds, "what ardency of desire, aided by labour and diligence, can effect, even where the capacity is not the strongest."

To these exertions Picus declares he was stimulated by obtaining some oriental works

of inestimable value, and which were thrown in his way by the peculiar kindness of Providence.

Shortly after this he set out for Rome, where he published nine hundred propositions in almost every science, which he engaged publicly to defend against all opponents whatsoever : and, that time might be allowed for the circulation of them through the several universities of Italy, notice was given that the public discussion would not take place till the feast of Epiphany. A further object of this delay was to afford to all scholars in the remotest seats of learning, who might wish to be present, and to assist at the disputation, an opportunity of repairing to Rome for that purpose. So desirous was Picus of attracting thither all the wit and talent of Italy, that he engaged to defray out of his own purse the charges of all scholars, from whatever part, who should undertake the journey to Rome for the purpose of disputing publicly with him on any of the subjects proposed.

The boldness of this challenge, from so young a person, could not but astonish the learned world ; but astonishment soon gave place to envy ; and the scholars and divines of Rome, whose credit was immediately implicated, conscious of their own inability to contend with this prodigy of erudition, began to devise means of hindering him from show-

ing his superiority in this public manner. Lampoons and satires were circulated at first ; but these proving ineffectual to drive the young champion from the field, recourse was had to a more powerful expedient. Of the propositions exhibited by Picus, thirteen were selected as of an heretical tendency. This was a very serious charge, and proved so effectual, that after staying a year at Rome in expectation of reaping an abundant harvest of praise, he found himself not only prevented from displaying his talents as a disputant, but, what was worse, involved in the accusation of heresy in the principal seat of bigotry and superstition.

Under such circumstances, it is no wonder Picus thought it most prudent to quit Rome, and to seek an asylum with his great friend Lorenzo de' Medici at Florence.

He there wrote his Apology, a work of immense learning, in the composition of which he was engaged only twenty days. This book he respectfully sent to Pope Innocent VIII. who was a man of mild disposition, and had a great regard for the author. His Holiness, however, was not willing that subjects of so delicate a nature should be publicly agitated ; and therefore, while he acquitted Picus of any wrong intention or corrupt principles, he caused his Apology to be suppressed. Such was the issue of this project, suggested

by youthful vanity and ambition ; and Picus afterwards acknowledged with thankfulness, that Providence, which often brings good out of evil, had rendered the malevolence of his enemies a salutary check to his career of vain-glory, in which he had been so far led astray.

By the kindness of his friend Lorenzo, he now took up his residence at Fiesole, an elevated spot in the neighbourhood of Florence, abounding with beautiful scenery and most extensive prospects, admirably adapted to the purposes of study and contemplation.

Here he devoted himself to theological inquiries, and to those philological pursuits which are necessary to the study of divinity.

He published some works of a religious character, which display prodigious reading, and, considering the age in which he wrote, considerable judgment : but, what is better, they evince genuine piety and devotion, breathing a pure spirit of love to God and man.

The psalms of David appear to have been his favourite study, and in commenting upon which he laboured with great assiduity. Of the merit of this commentary, and of its author, a learned man of that period thus writes :

“ So young a man !” speaking, of Picus, “ and yet connecting himself in erudition with the most celebrated fathers of the church !

What is not such a person capable of becoming, if length of years be granted him in proportion to his talents ! What gratification may we not expect from the Psalms and poetical works of David, in the elucidation of which he has been long employed ; exploring with infinite research all that Latin, Greek, and Hebrew authors have written on this subject ; and for the completion of which work, I have the happiness to say, he has chosen the solitude of our monastery at Fiesole ! To behold him, to listen to him, is the height of felicity !”

But the high expectations of the best and most learned men, respecting this phenomenon, were suddenly cut off ; for being at Florence, he was attacked by a fever, which carried him off in 1494, aged only 33.

ANGELUS POLITIANUS.

THIS very learned man, whom we have had occasion to mention in the preceding memoir, was born in 1454, at Monte Pulciano, in Tuscany ; and from the name of this town in Latin, *Mons Politanus*, he derived his sur-

name. His father was a doctor of the civil law, whose name was Benedictus de Ambroginis.

Politian had the advantage of Landino's instructions in the Latin language, and his preceptor in the Greek was Andronicus of Thessalonica. He also had the best masters in other branches of learning and philosophy ; but in the early part of his life, he devoted his attention chiefly to the muses, and preferred the gay and pleasing study of poesy to the discipline of the philosophical schools. The means of his education were furnished almost from his childhood by the illustrious family of the Medici at Florence, and he recommended himself to the public notice, and the esteem of his patrons, by his poem entitled, "The Stanze," written in his fourteenth year. It is an unfinished performance ; but though abandoned to neglect, and perhaps considered by him as a mere playful effort of childish genius, unworthy of subsequent revisal or completion, it has, notwithstanding, perpetuated the author's fame. The best Italian writers constantly speak of it in terms of the highest praise ; and one of the most distinguished critics ranks this poem, unfinished as it is, amongst the most elegant compositions which Italian poesy can boast. As a refiner and improver of his vernacular tongue, the juvenile efforts of Politian appear to have resem-

bled those of our own celebrated poet, Pope ; and perhaps all circumstances considered, his success was not inferior. " It is matter of real astonishment," says an ingenious writer, " that at a time when those who had been longest exercised in the practice of versification, could not divest themselves of their antiquated rusticity, a youthful poet, who had scarcely begun to touch the lyre, should be able to leave them far behind."

On this occasion, Politian, writing in his native language, and expatiating in terms familiar to him, gives an unrestrained scope to his genius, which here stands displayed in all the rich, unpruned wildness of juvenile luxuriance. A more convincing proof could scarcely have been given, either of an exuberant imagination, and a fancy by nature romantically poetical, or of a mind stored by observation, with a wonderful variety of adventitious and classical imagery. Richardson, in his celebrated work on painting, asserts that Politian's genius was of special assistance to the famous artist Raphael de Urbino in many of the exquisite productions of his sublime pencil.

At the age of eighteen, Politian produced his tragedy entitled " Orfeo," which was composed in the short space of two days, and amidst the tumultuous festivities of a court, for the entertainment of the Cardinal Gonzà-

ga, and his train, before whom it was represented.

This piece is generally allowed to be the earliest towards a regular dramatic composition in the Italian language.

About this time he had the honour to be appointed preceptor to the children of Lorenzo de Medici, a trust which he discharged with the highest credit to himself and advantage to his pupils. He had the happy art of making his instructions pleasant ; and having engaged the affections of those under his care, he made them love learning by his example.

With the charge of superintending the education of his patron's children, he afterwards combined that of a public professor of the Greek and Latin languages in the University of Florence, and his lectures were attended by numerous disciples from all parts of Europe, and particularly from England. He lived on terms of the greatest intimacy and confidence with his generous benefactor, and his correspondence was eagerly courted and cherished by the lovers of learning in different countries. Of his friendship with the celebrated and virtuous nobleman, Picus, of Mirandula, we have had occasion to speak ; and the amiable character of both appears to the greatest advantage, when it is considered that, notwithstanding the eminent talents of

each, they were always disposed to ascribe to each other the superiority of mental talent. This is the pure and genuine friendship of exalted minds, which can alone spring from virtue and religion.

Politian died at Florence in 1494, aged only forty-one. His Latin and Italian Poems are still held in high estimation ; as also are his critical observations upon classic authors.

FABIUS URSINUS.

Letter from Angelus Politianus, to Picus of Mirandula.

“ I SINCERELY wish you had been of our party to-day, at the table of Paulus Ursinus, who is a gentleman not only of distinguished military fame, but very fond of letters, and of the society of the learned. He has a child of the name of Fabius, a youth of eleven years of age, and of singular beauty and endowments. His fine auburn hair falls gracefully on his shoulders. He has an eye sparkling with intelligence, an open countenance, a person elegantly formed, and a most graceful carriage, which inclines a little to the milita-

ry. When the party had taken their seats, this child was desired to accompany some persons of skill, in singing several airs set to music, which he did with so melodious a voice, that for my own part I listened with ecstasy. He afterwards recited an heroic poem in praise of my pupil Piero de Medici, of his own composing ; for that it really was so, and not the work of another, (as I at first suspected,) I had afterwards an opportunity of ascertaining by undoubtable evidence. And what kind of a composition do you think it was ? Really such an one as I myself should not need to be ashamed of. His tones were not merely those proper to reading, nor altogether modulated as in singing ; but formed by a pleasing inflection of voice between both. As the subject required, they were uniform or varied, with exact regard to connexion and pause ; acute or grave ; easy or emphatical ; quick or slow ; yet always correct, distinct, and agreeable. His action was neither indolent and unanimated, nor yet bold and forward. You would have vowed another little Roscius stood before you. He was suddenly requested to turn the verse into prose, and repeat the same thoughts unconfined by measure. Accordingly, after a short interval of consideration, he began again in a manner perfectly unassuming : and I was astonished to hear from his youthful lips, a flow

of expression so select and appropriate, as the pen seldom supplies. Are you already surprised? you will be still more so with what followed. The boy had completed his task, and was ordered to take his food standing; for such is his constant custom. After the first remove, I was requested to propose subjects to him for epistolary composition, as many as I pleased: on which he was to dictate, extempore, to several amanuenses at once. I mentioned only five, not being willing to bear too hard upon the child, though he engagingly insisted on more. But the subjects which I selected on this occasion, were of a nature so various and novel, and some of them so ludicrous, that I am convinced he could not have been previously prepared for them. Immediately five persons, with pens, ink, and paper, placed themselves in order, to write as he should dictate. The boy, standing in a conspicuous situation, fixes his eyes modestly upon the ground; and pauses a moment; then raising his head, dictates a few words to the person who sits highest; makes a sign to the second, and gives him instructions on a different subject; and proceeds in like manner with the rest, down to the lowest: then returning to the first, so fills up every chasm, and connects the suspended thread of his argument, that nothing appears discordant or disjointed; and

at the same instant, who should have thought it ! he finishes the five letters.

“ Afterwards we rode out to see the combatants in the giostra or justs, and amongst them Piero de Medici my charge. On this occasion an accident happened that greatly discomposed me ; but, on reflection, served to confirm me in the belief that this was no ordinary child. Young Fabius was carried by a beautiful and spirited palfrey, of which he is uncommonly fond : on this he bounded over the field, and roved about at pleasure ; and now wheeling about with as much speed as spirit. He happened to be near to me, listening with eagerness to my observations, which had deeply arrested his attention, when on a sudden, his horse, stumbling against an impediment in the way, came down upon his young rider. The servants hastened with all speed, each eager to relieve him in this alarming crisis ; one of whom, dismounting too precipitately, fractured his leg. All was alarm and confusion. For my own part, I remained stupified with horror. The father arrives, admonishes the child not to be alarmed ; and the latter no sooner perceived him present, than, which I considered as a strong proof of a noble spirit, he entirely ceased all complaint and exclamation, and only requested they would proceed with gentleness and caution, lest the horse, in the violence of

his efforts to rise, should injure him more severely. The girths were cut as the creature lay, and young Fabius was at length drawn from under him, and restored in safety to his trembling friends ; but so bruised with the accident that it became advisable to convey him directly home. For my own part, I found my spirits so much fluttered, that I left the spectacle, and came home also ; scarcely able to persuade myself that the child was safe ; and terrified almost to death with the impression which this alarming accident had made on my mind.

“ Such is one day’s history of young Fabius Ursinus ; who if he lives to complete the measure of his days, (which God grant he may !) and perseveres in the path of renown, as he has begun, will, I venture to predict, prove such a person as the present age glories in considering you : that is to say, one whom, for his admirable qualities and attainments, mankind must unite to venerate as something more than human. Farewell.”

Of the further history of this surprising youth, it is to be lamented that we have no particulars.

HENRY, PRINCE OF WALES.

THIS virtuous and accomplished Prince, who was the delight and hope of the British nation, was the eldest son of James the Sixth, King of Scotland, and the first of that name King of England.

He was born in the castle of Stirling, February 19th, 1594, and his baptism was celebrated with uncommon splendour the sixth of September that year. On that occasion, Queen Elizabeth sent the Earl of Sussex as her representative ; and the King of Denmark, the States of Holland, and the Dukes of Brunswick and Mecklenburg, likewise sent their ambassadors to attend the ceremony.

The infant Prince being brought to the Queen's chamber, and laid in a stately bed, the ambassadors entered the chamber ; and the Countess of Mar, accompanied by many other ladies, took up the Prince, and delivered him to the Duke of Lenox, who presented him to the ambassadors.

The Earl of Sussex, being first in rank, received him, and carried him in his arms to the chapel, the rest following in their order ;

after whom came the ladies of honour, the chief nurse, and others of inferior quality. Before them went the several lords of the court. Over the English ambassador was carried a canopy, supported by four noblemen. On their entrance into the chapel, the King rose from his seat, and at the door of the choir received the ambassadors, who were conducted to their places. The ceremony began by a sermon by one of the chaplains; after which the Bishop of Aberdeen preached on the same subject in Latin. After this, the Bishop being prepared to administer the sacrament of baptism, the Earl of Sussex arose and followed the King, the rest proceeding in order to the place where the Bishop stood; the Duke of Lenox carrying the Prince in his arms, and having delivered him again to the Earl of Sussex, the Bishop baptised him by the names of Henry Frederick, which names were proclaimed aloud by the sound of trumpets.

The ceremony being ended, the procession returned to the Prince's chamber, where he was crowned and created Prince and Great Steward of Scotland, and Lord of the Isles. A considerable number of knights were then made, and silver and gold coins distributed among the people. The ambassadors, with their train, and the noblemen present were royally feasted and entertained

for several days with plays and other public spectacles.

The chief care of the Prince's person was entrusted to the Countess of Mar; and though, owing to the severity of her temper, she did not show any indulgence to her illustrious charge, he always treated her with affection and reverence.

The nobleness of his mind very early displayed itself; for when he was but a little above five years of age, and a son of the Earl of Mar fell out with one of his Highness's pages, and ill-used him, the prince reproved him for it, saying, "I love you because you are my Lord's son, and my cousin; but if you are not better natured and behaved, I will love this page better."

His courage and intrepidity were also as remarkable. Being asked, very young, what instrument of music he liked best, he answered, a trumpet, in the sound of which and of drums, and the firing of cannon, he took great delight.

He was scarcely seven years of age, when a boy of good courage, and a year older, falling by accident at blows with him, and exerting his whole strength and agility, his Highness not only had the superiority in the contest, when they were parted, but loved his antagonist the better for his spirit ever after.

While he was a child, he wept much less

than most children usually do ; and he made very light of bruises or falls. Having once hurt both his hands, so that they bled, though the severity of the pain extorted some tears at first, he rose up with a smile, and dissembled what he suffered.

Looking at another time upon some who were hunting a deer, and being asked whether he liked that sport, he answered, " Yes, but I love another kind of hunting better." And being asked again, what hunting that was, he replied, " Hunting of thieves and rebels with brave men and horses."

He was hardly ten years of age, when being desirous of mounting a high-mettled horse, his attendants endeavoured to dissuade him from the dangerous attempt ; but he got up himself from the side of a bank, and spurred the animal to a full gallop, and having thoroughly exercised the horse, brought him back in a gentle pace, and dismounting, said, " How long shall I continue to be a child in your opinion ?"

His tutor was Mr. Adam Newton, a gentleman who was admirably qualified for the office by his skill in the languages, and acquaintance with all parts of solid and polite learning. Nor were the instructions of so able an instructor lost upon the royal pupil, whose capacity and application enabled him

to make a rapid progress in every branch of useful knowledge. The Prince's early progress in learning appears from a Latin letter of his, written on his ninth birth-day, to the King, in which he takes notice, that he had two years before begun to write to his Majesty, in order that he might be a judge what proficiency he had made in his studies. He adds, that since the King's departure, he had read over Terence's *Heyra*, the third book of Phædrus's Fables, and two books of Cicero's *Select Epistles*.

Soon after this his father succeeded to the throne of England, by the death of Queen Elizabeth, on which occasion we find the Prince congratulating his Majesty on that event, in a very sensible Latin letter, in which, among other things, he observes, "that if the weakness of his age would not permit him to do that service to his Majesty which he desired, he would most willingly perform what was in his power, by daily praying to God to give success to his government, and that he might administer it suitably to his own dignity and that of his ancestors, and to the expectations of all his countrymen."

The feast of St. George being celebrated at Windsor on the 2d of July 1603, the Prince was invested with the Order of the Garter, on which occasion he was greatly admired by the whole court for his ready an-

swers, dignified behaviour, and devout obedience at the altar.

The new year's gift which he presented to the King on the 1st of January following, was a Latin poem in hexameter verse, being the first of his offerings in that kind, and which he inclosed in a neat and modest epistle, written in the same language.

As his Highness manifested a great inclination to be made acquainted with maritime concerns, orders were given to build a small vessel for his amusement. 'This vessel, which was twenty-eight feet in length, and twelve broad, being completed, and elegantly carved and painted, was brought up from Chatham to Whitehall, and was named by his Royal Highness in the customary form, *The Disdain*.

In the summer of 1605 he accompanied his father to the University of Oxford, where the Prince was entered a member of Magdalen College, and was entertained in a very magnificent manner with plays and public disputations.

The discovery of the plot for blowing up the parliament house on the fifth of November that year, when the King, Queen, Prince, and the great council of the nation were to have assembled, made so strong an impression of religious gratitude upon his royal Highness, that in memory of deliverance, he ever after

attended divine service on Tuesday, that being the day of the week on which the plot was to have been executed.

About this time he received letters from that great monarch Henry the Fourth of France, who took great pleasure in his correspondence, and ordered his ambassador to pay him particular marks of attention. The ambassador, in one of his letters to France, observes of the Prince, "that none of his pleasures savour the least of a child. He is a particular lover of horses and what belongs to them ; but is not fond of hunting ; and when he goes to it, it is rather for the pleasure of galloping, than for that which the dogs afford him. He plays willingly at tennis, but this always with persons older than himself, as if he despised those of his own age. He studies two hours a-day, and employs the rest of his time in handling the pike, or leaping, or shooting with the bow, or throwing the bar, or some other exercise of that kind ; and he is never idle. He shows himself likewise very good-natured to his dependants, and supports their interests against any persons whatever ; and pushes what he undertakes for them or others with such zeal as gives success to it. For, besides his exerting his whole strength to compass what he desires, he is already feared by those who have the management of public affairs."

The great modesty of the Prince is proved very agreeably in an answer which he wrote in his twelfth year to a letter sent to him by the Earl of Dunfermling, Chancellor of Scotland. That nobleman, who was an excellent scholar, and a good Latin poet, had written to him a letter highly complimentary of his talents, to which the Prince replied, that he "felt himself obliged for his kind letter, in which he had given a testimony of his affection, though less of his judgment." For with respect to those accomplishments which the Chancellor had attributed to him, his Highness was so far from thinking they ought to be ascribed to himself, that he thought an appeal might in this case justly lie from his lordship, how eminent soever he was as a lawyer and a judge, for having given a wrong judgment.

"But I am convinced," says the Prince, "that this judgment, whatever it is, proceeded from affection : I could not but congratulate myself upon this good-natured mistake, and acknowledge myself indebted to you on that very account. I am not ignorant that the commendations of persons, who, like your lordship, preside in senates and courts of justice, are to be considered as exhortations to excite us to attempt every thing that is great and excellent. That I may some time or other do this, in order that your compli-

ments may be thought to arise no less from judgment than affection, I shall sincerely pray the all-merciful God, to whom I heartily recommend the happy issue of my own concerns, and the prosperity of your lordship and of the state."

At this early age he distinguished himself, also, as the liberal patron of letters and science. Numerous instances are recorded of his generosity to men of learning; and he never omitted to acknowledge, in the handsomest manner, the letters and books which they sent to him.

An ingenious person having one day presented to him a small poem, the Prince received it very graciously, and desired a gentleman who kept his privy purse to bestow on him some mark of his favour. The gentleman asking, whether a couple of angels (a coin then in current use) would not be sufficient? "Fie, for shame," answered his Highness, "give him at least ten angels."

The Prince's growing affection for the navy, which he considered as the main stay of the nation, led him, in the summer of 1608, to make a visit to the royal dock at Woolwich. Accordingly, on the 13th of August, he took his barge at Blackwall, and came to Woolwich about noon. He was received by the master-builder, Mr. Pett, who conducted him round the dock, where his Highness was

saluted by the discharge of thirty-one brass cannon. He then visited and carefully observed every part of a large ship then building ; after which he went on shore and partook of an entertainment prepared at Mr. Pett's house.

That gentleman, for whom the Prince had a great regard, being some time after involved in trouble, owing to the misrepresentations of some of his enemies, a court of inquiry was ordered to be held at Woolwich, whither the King, accompanied by the Prince, repaired to hear the cause. The persons who were appointed to decide the matter in dispute, having given their judgment in favour of Mr. Pett, the Prince, who had waited till the innocence of his friend was clearly proved, could not help exclaiming with honest indignation, " Where be now these perjured fellows, that dare thus to abuse his Majesty with these false informations ? Do they not worthily deserve hanging ? " And during the whole examination his Highness stood near Mr. Pett, to encourage him under his anxiety and fatigue ; and when the King declared himself convinced of his innocence, the Prince raised him from his knees, and expressed his joy for the satisfaction which his father had that day received, protesting that he would not only favour Mr. Pett for the

future, but likewise take care to provide for him and his family while he lived.

In 1610 his Highness was solemnly inaugurated Prince of Wales ; on which occasion several grand spectacles were exhibited, particularly one on the Thames, consisting of naval actions of ships of war and galleys, fighting with each other, and against a castle built in the water. These battles were followed by fireworks in the castle, and in all the ships and galleys, without the least accident to any person, though the river was covered with boats, and the banks with spectators.

The ship, which the Prince had made several journeys to see while it was building, was now finished, and ready to be launched, being the largest that ever had been built in England. The keel was one hundred and fourteen feet long, and the cross-beam forty-four feet. She was pierced for sixty-four guns, and the burden was fourteen hundred tons. The King having made a present of this ship to his Highness, went to Woolwich to see her launched attended by the Queen, the Prince, the Duke of York, and a great number of the nobility. But the narrowness of the dock preventing the launch, his Majesty returned with the rest of the family except his Highness, who staid some time behind them, in order to prepare for the launch the

next morning, when he returned by three o'clock through a storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, and standing on the poop while the ship was launched, gave her the name of the *Prince Royal*.

His zeal to promote the interests of commerce and science was evinced by his employing an experienced navigator, Captain Button, on a voyage for the discovery of a north-west passage. Captain Button accordingly sailed in April, 1612, on this expedition having under his command two ships called the *Resolution* and *Discovery*, with which he sailed to the northward, but without attaining the object of his search. The reader, perhaps, will remark, that the same names were given to the two vessels which have since been immortalized by the discoveries of the celebrated Captain Cook.

While the Prince was thus giving proofs of his regard for the best interests of the nation, and gaining by the whole of his demeanour, as well as by the uncommon force of his mind and virtues of his heart, the love of the people, his hitherto florid and healthy appearance began to change. He appeared pale and thin; he was troubled with fainting fits, head-ache, and unusual heaviness. These symptoms increased to an alarming degree, and carried him off, to the universal grief of

the nation, November 6, 1612. His last illness, which was painful to a most excruciating degree, he bore with uncommon calmness and fortitude, and he yielded himself up to the will of the Almighty, in terms which indicated the habitual piety of his mind, and the firmness of his religious principles.

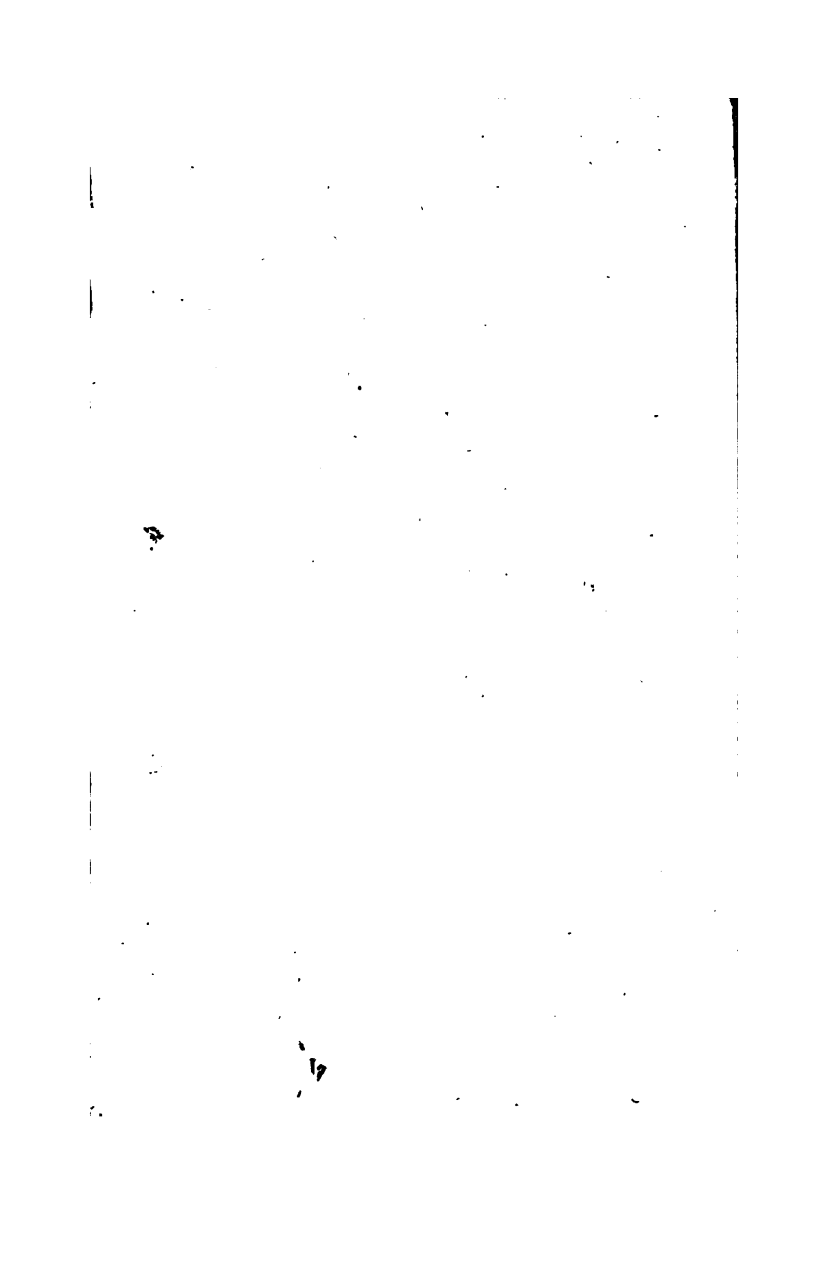
His remains were interred with great solemnity, being attended by about two thousand mourners in black, in the chapel of Henry the VIIth in Westminster Abbey.

On the twelfth of December his Highness's household was dissolved ; on which occasion, his Chaplain, Dr. Joseph Hall, afterwards Bishop of Norwich, preached a very pathetic sermon ; in which, after speaking of the prince as one " whose countenance was able to put life into any beholder," and " that he who was compounded of all loveliness, had infused an harmony into his whole family ;" he concludes with this exhortation :—

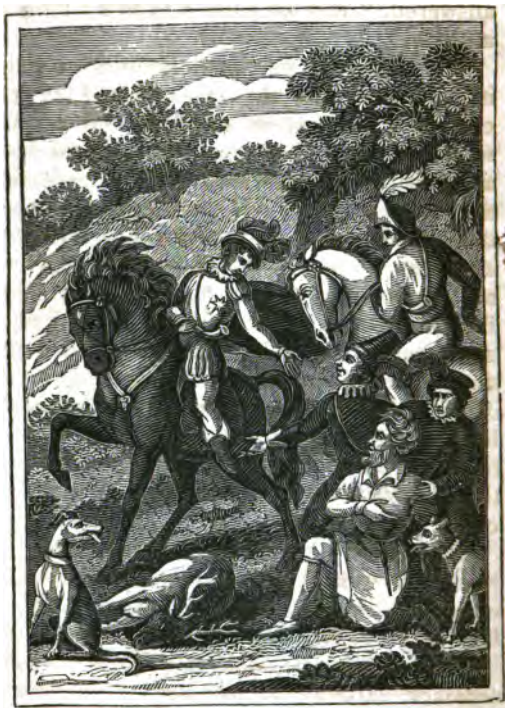
" Go in peace, and live as those that have lost such a master, and as those that serve a master whom they cannot lose."

The leading features of his character have already been given ; yet a few more traits will be found not only pleasing, but profitable.

He had such an aversion to the profanation of God's name, that he was never once heard to take it in vain, though his father was too apt to be guilty of that fault.



HENRY, PRINCE OF WALES.



“ Away,” rejoined the Prince, “ all the pleasure in the world is not worth an oath.”

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When the Prince was once asked, "Why he did not swear at play, as others did?" he answered, "that he knew no game worthy of an oath."

His Highness was once hunting the stag; it happened that the stag, being hard run, crossed a road, where a butcher and his dog were passing. The dog instantly set upon and killed the stag, which was so large, that the butcher could not carry it away; when the huntsman and company came up, they expressed great resentment, and endeavoured to incense the Prince against the butcher. But the Prince answered coolly; "What if the butcher's dog killed the stag; what could the butcher help it?" They replied, "that if his father had been so served, he would have sworn so as no man could have endured it." "Away!" rejoined the Prince; "all the pleasure in the world is not worth an oath."

Though his liberality was great, and he was fond of magnificence, he restrained both within the bounds of frugality and moderation. He ordered to be set down in writing the several heads of all his annual charges, the ordinary expense of his house, and his stables; that of his apparel and wardrobe; his rewards, and every thing else that was to be issued regularly out of his coffers. These

he compared with his income, and so judiciously proportioned them, by retrenching what he found superfluous, and adding what was wanting, that he reduced the whole to a certainty, such as his revenues would defray, besides a yearly saving to a considerable amount, which he reserved for occasional and contingent exigencies.

In short, his disposition and attainments were such as to render his loss a public calamity ; and the contemplation of his character, though a Prince, and the heir apparent to a throne, will, if properly improved, be productive of advantage.

NICHOLAS HARTSOCKER.

NICHOLAS HARTSOCKER was born at Gouda, a city in Holland, in the year 1656. His father was a clergyman ; and, like many other parents, obliged his son to apply to the studies which were fitted to qualify him for the station he himself filled ; little dreaming that his views would be thwarted, as they were, by the stars and the planets, which little Hartsocker used to contemplate with the greatest pleasure and curiosity, both in the

heavens, and in all the almanacks he could lay hold of.

When he was about thirteen years of age, he was told that it was impossible to understand such subjects without a knowledge of the mathematics ; and finding his father utterly averse to his engaging in that branch of learning, he carefully saved as much as he could of the little money allowed him for his recreation, in order to be able to acquire it, if possible, with his own hands.

At length, thinking himself rich enough, he applied to a teacher of the mathematics, who promised to be very expeditious with his pupil, and he kept his word. However, our young student's savings were but just sufficient to procure him six months' teaching, and to make the most of so short a period, he sat up whole nights at his books, making no other use of his bedclothes, than that of covering the windows of his chamber, for fear the family should discover what he was about.

His master had some iron basons, in which he used to grind, with tolerable exactness, optic glasses of six feet focus ; and young Hartsocker soon caught the method of performing the operation as well as his master. But this was only a prelude to his future successes in this way ; for happening one day to present, merely by way of amusement, a small glass thread to the flame of a candle,

and observing that the end of it contracted a globular form, he immediately recollected that a glass globe always magnified the objects placed in its focus ; and having seen microscopes at Mr. Leuwenhoeck's and observed their construction, he formed one for himself with a little globe which he had accidentally formed, and which had dropped of itself from the end of the thread. Having tied this upon a hair, he had the unspeakable satisfaction of finding it a good one, and that he could now make microscopes nearly for nothing.

He now pursued his inquiries and observations into the minutest objects of nature, and made numerous discoveries of animalcula, which had hitherto eluded the searches of the most inquisitive naturalists.

After spending some years at Leyden, where he studied the belles-lettres, Greek, philosophy, and anatomy, he visited Amsterdam in 1672, where he resumed his microscopical observations with fresh ardour, and made new discoveries which recommended him to the acquaintance of the celebrated mathematician Mr. Huygens, who took him to Paris, where he was introduced to some of the greatest philosophers of the age, who were pleased with his acquaintance.

Mr. Hartsocker having observed that the telescopical glasses of the observatory at

Paris were not large enough, however excellent in other respects, made one larger, and carried it to the great astronomer, Mr. Cassini, who found it was good for nothing ; a second succeeded no better ; but at last a third was pronounced to be tolerable. This uncommon instance of perseverance made Mr. Cassini foretel, that this young man, if he went on as he had begun, would do great things ; and the prediction itself was, perhaps, the cause of its accomplishment ; for nothing proves a greater incitement to praiseworthy pursuits, than the encouragement of the wise and good. Mr. Hartsocker, stimulated by the observation of Mr. Cassini, soon made good glasses of all sizes, and at length one of six hundred feet focus, which, on account of its rarity, he would never part with.

As a philosopher, he distinguished himself by his valuable Essay on Dioptricks, in which he demonstrates the theory of that science with great perspicuity, and narrates his several discoveries in a very agreeable manner. He afterwards published his Principles of Natural Philosophy ; and two volumes of Philosophical Conjectures, in which he hazarded some fanciful opinions on the organization of man.

Though he was much courted by the great, and the most advantageous offers were made by some princes, he chose rather to live a

philosophical life, engaged in experimental inquiries. He died in 1735, leaving the character of a very ingenious, indefatigable, and worthy man.

THOMAS WILLIAMS MALKIN.

THOMAS WILLIAMS MALKIN, a child of extraordinary acquirements and promise, died at Hackney in Middlesex, July 31, 1802, aged six years and nine months.

With respect to this uncommon child, the extent of his attainments may excite the surprise, and possibly in some minds the relation may raise no small portion of incredulity.

Yet we have well authenticated accounts of juvenile proficiency ; and in the present instance, there are many and most respectable witnesses to attest, that amiable dispositions and superior talents were never united in a more distinguished manner, than in the subject of this biographical sketch.

His knowledge of the English language was correct and copious, and his expression, whether in speaking or writing, was as remarkable for its fertility as for its selection. In the Latin, he had proceeded so far as to

read with ease the more popular parts of Cicero's works. He had made some progress in French ; and was so thorough a proficient in geography, as not only to be able, when questioned, to particularise the situation of the principal countries, cities, rivers, &c. but to draw maps from memory, with neatness and accuracy which would scarcely be credited, but by those who are in possession of the specimens.

Without any professional assistance, he had acquired considerable execution in the art of drawing ; and in some of his copies from Raphael's heads, though wanting the precision of the students of the Academy, evinced a fellow feeling with the style and sentiment of the originals, which seemed likely, had he pursued it, to have ranked him with the more eminent professors of the art.

But the most striking feature in his character was a strength of intellect, and rapidity of comprehension on all subjects, independent of those to which his studies were immediately directed, which increasing with his growth, seemed likely in manhood to have placed more within his reach than it usually falls to the lot of humanity to attain. He united, in a remarkable manner, the solid and the brilliant ; for the powers of his memory kept pace with those of his understanding and imagination ; and the character of his mind may

be comprised in these few but comprehensive words—that he remembered whatever he had once known, and could do whatever he had once seen done.

But it may not be uninteresting to particularize the periods of his short life, which the leading features of his character first presented to observation.

He was familiar with the alphabet long before he could speak, not only as exhibited on counters, (a practice very judicious, because very enticing to children,) but as expressed in books, to which, from seeing them constantly about him, he showed a very early partiality.

At the age of three years, on his birth-day, he wrote his first letter to his mother; and though it contained nothing but short expressions of affection, he soon afterwards begun to write in a style, and on subjects to which children in general are total strangers; and this practice of writing his sentiments on all subjects he persevered in with a continually increasing expansion and improvement, both as to matter and manner, which we regret that our limits will not allow us to authenticate by specimens.

At the time of which we are speaking, three years old, he could not only read and spell with the greatest accuracy, but knew the Greek characters, and would have at-

tempted that language, had not the caution of his parents, in this instance, discouraged the forwardness of his inclination. When he was five, he had made considerable advances in Latin, as well as in all the other studies, which he pursued successfully for near two years longer. His study of Latin, in particular, was far removed from that mechanical routine by which scholars of more advanced age too frequently proceed. His comparison of the idiom and construction with those of his own and the French languages; his acuteness in tracing the etymology, and detecting the component parts of the words, hunting them through English and French, and inquiring the forms they assumed in Greek and Italian, with which he was unacquainted, proved that he possessed a mind peculiarly adapted for philological inquiries. Nor was his attention confined to words: he never passed over any passage, the style or subject of which was obscure or difficult, without such an explanation as satisfied his doubts: nor did he ever suffer errors of the press, even the trifling ones of punctuation, to escape, without detecting and correcting them with a pencil, which he kept for the purpose.

Notwithstanding these studious inclinations, he was a child of manly corporeal structure, of unusual liveliness and activity. He was

by no means grave and demure in his disposition, except when engaged in the pursuit of knowledge; from which, however, active sports were generally successful in detaching him; but the bane of all improvement, both of mind and body, indolence, and the habit of lounging, were totally excluded from the catalogue of his pleasures.

But as mere description, unassisted by anecdote, seldom conveys a lively and accurate idea of character, it will not be thought impertinent to mention an observation or two, which may serve to illustrate the turn of his mind. On being told by a lady that she would send for him the following day, when he should draw as much as he pleased, he said: "I wish to-morrow would come directly." After a short pause he added: "Where can to-morrow be *now*? It must be somewhere, for every thing is in some place."—After a little further reflection, he said, "Perhaps to-morrow is in the sun."

On meeting with the following aphorism, "Learning is not so much esteemed by wise men, as it is despised by fools;" he said, "I think the person who wrote that sentence was himself very foolish; for wise mean esteem learning as much as possible, and fools cannot despise it more."

But the most singular instance in which he displayed fertility of imagination, united with the power of making every thing he met with

in books and conversation his own, was his invention of an imaginary country called Allestone, of which he considered himself as king. It resembled Utopia, though he had never read that celebrated political romance. Of this country he wrote the history, and drew a most curious and ingenious map, giving names of his own invention to the principal cities, mountains, rivers, &c. And as learning was always the object of his highest regard, he endowed it most liberally with universities, to which he appointed professors by name, with numerous statutes and regulations, which would have reflected no disgrace on graver founders.

But though, in the progress of his short life, he was continually employed in laying up stores of knowledge, apparently for purposes which the event proved were never to be fulfilled; his last illness, which he supported with a patience and fortitude almost unexampled, amply evinced that he knew how to apply the treasures he had acquired to the solace and relief of his own mind, under circumstances of trial and suffering. He frequently beguiled the tedious hours of a sick-bed with the recollection of what he had read, seen, or done in the days of his health; and little points of interest or information, which might have been supposed to have made a transient impression, were as

much present to his mind, as when they first engaged his attention.

When a blister had been applied to his stomach, he observed that from the appearance of it, he supposed it corresponded with what he had seen called a cataplasm: and one day, when he was at the worst, he desired to know the meaning of the phrase, "a still-born child," which he had once seen in an inscription on a tomb-stone, though he said the inscription itself was too poor to be worth remembering. He often talked of the period of his recovery, but never with impatience: and the triumph of mind over body continued so complete to the last, that he looked with interest and pleasure at his dissected maps within half an hour of his dissolution.

Without entering into unnecessary minuteness into the nature of his disorder, it will be interesting to parents in general to be informed that it afforded no confirmation of the vulgar idea, that early expansion of intellect is unfavourable to continuance of life. In consequence of the remarkable form of his head, which had been much admired, especially by artists, some doubts had been suggested, that rendered it desirable to have the head as well as the body examined. From the result of this investigation it appeared, that the brain was unusually large, and in the

most perfect and healthy state : that the disorder, as it was uniformly considered to have been, was in the stomach, and had received all the relief that medical skill and the most anxious attention could afford ; and that there was more than ordinary probability, from the vigour of his constitution, and the well-proportioned formation of his body, of his arriving at manhood, but for one of those accidents in the system, to which the old and the young, the healthy and infirm, are all equally exposed.

His illness lasted from the first to the thirty-first of July ; a period which, under such severe sufferings, none but a naturally strong patient could have endured. On the morning of the thirty-first, his medical friends, Dr. Lister and Mr. Toulmin, saw and conversed with him, as he with them, after their usual manner : and though they had given little or no encouragement for many days, they did not, on their last visit, such was the collected state of his mind and strength of his spirits, apprehend his dissolution to be so near. Soon after eleven o'clock he appeared much exhausted : his breathing became very difficult, and his voice, which through his illness had been strong and clear, began to falter. Still, however, he was firm and composed, without the slightest appearance

of dissatisfaction or alarm ; he talked at intervals with the most perfect consistency, with his accustomed powers, and usual kindness to those about him, till he could no longer utter a sound. In a few minutes after he had ceased to articulate, and a little before twelve o'clock, he sunk without a struggle or groan, exciting more admiration under circumstances from which human nature is apt to revolt, than when in the full career of mental and bodily improvement.

Thus ends this short history of a child, whose mind, though his years were few, seemed to have arrived at maturity. His powers of understanding, of memory, and of imagination were all remarkable ; and the reasonableness of his mind was such, that he always yielded his own to the wishes of his friends, as much from conviction as compliance : his dispositions were as generous and amiable as his talents were brilliant and extensive : and there can be little doubt, that, in after-life, whether he had devoted the powers of his mind to the fine arts, to belles-letters, or to the severer studies, his success would have placed him, in the estimation of the wise, whatever might have been his external condition, high in the catalogue of worthy and useful members of society.

JOHN HENDERSON.

Of this celebrated young man, whose extraordinary talents attracted the notice and even commanded the respect of the great Dr. Johnson, several accounts have been published, and much eulogium has been pronounced. By many he has been supposed to have emulated the variety and extent of knowledge possessed by the Admirable Crichton; and, like that extraordinary character, he has left but little for posterity to form a judgment of the truth of those praises which have been bestowed upon him.

He was born at Bellegarance, near Limerick, in the kingdom of Ireland, on the 27th of March, 1752, of very pious and respectable parents.

He received his education in the school formed at Kingswood, in Gloucestershire, by that celebrated character, Mr. John Wesley; and so rapid was his progress, that he actually became an assistant teacher in that seminary at the age of nine years.

One who had great opportunities of knowing him, says, that "his very infancy denoted something extraordinary and great. He was born, as it were, a thinking being; and was

never known to cry, or express any infantine peevishness. Those years which are spent in weakness, ignorance, and the misconceptions of the grossest senses, were marked by him with strong intelligence. The questions he asked, as soon as he was able to speak, astonished all who heard him ; and showed that he came into the world rather to teach others, than to be taught by them. He might say, as the wise man did, " I was a witty child, and had a good spirit ; yea rather, being good, I came into a body undefiled. Nevertheless when I perceived that I could not otherwise obtain Wisdom, except God gave her to me, (and that was a point of wisdom also, to know whose gift she was,) I prayed unto the Lord, and besought him with my whole heart. For there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding." This was the true and deep ground of this distinguished eminence.

" Whence then cometh Wisdom, and where is the place of understanding ? It is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept from the fowls of the air." Surely God has various ways of communicating knowledge to man, without waiting for the slow information of the outward senses. At that early period " he was wiser than the aged, he had more understanding than his teachers, because he kept the commandments of his God." He might say

with young Samuel, and perhaps at an earlier period, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth."

From Kingswood school he removed to the newly instituted college, erected at Trevecka, in South Wales, by the late Countess of Huntingdon, for the instruction of persons designed for the ministry. There young Henderson, at the age of twelve, bore an active and important part in conducting the academical pursuits of the students. Many of the lay-preachers among the Methodists entered into this seminary for the purpose of attaining some knowledge of the learned languages, and of theology. From this it appears, that elegant or comprehensive learning did not come within the plan of the institution. But we here observe something more deserving of our admiration, and that is a boy, at an age usually occupying the lower forms in schools, employed in teaching men the Latin and Greek languages.

At this college, however, he did not remain long; for some differences about religious opinions occasioned a separation, and young Henderson returned home to his father, who kept a boarding-school at Hanham, near Bristol.

Here he entered upon the useful but laborious occupation of instructing the boys in writing and arithmetic, for no higher were

the pretensions of this respectable academy. It was, indeed, highly respectable ; for so amiable, pious, benevolent, and assiduous was the father ; so good-natured, active, and playful was the son, that the scholars could not but be fond of their studies and their situation.

Severity was unknown in the school at Hanham ; and punishment was seldom needed ; and when it was absolutely necessary, it was administered with a fatherly care and reluctance.

The short distance of Hanham from Bristol was of essential service to young Henderson, in enabling him to gratify his thirst for learning of every kind. In that city he experienced disinterested friendship, solid assistance in his studies, and at length a generous and learned patron, who placed him, at his own expense, in the seat of the muses.

One of his most intimate friends was a worthy and ingenious physician, which intimacy led him to the study of anatomy, and theory of medicine. In the practice of physic, Mr. Henderson approved himself abundantly successful, though he never gave his medical assistance but from charitable motives.

The range of his literary inquiries was extremely large and various ; he deemed nothing beneath his observation, by which the mind might be improved.

In the languages and the sciences he was familiar ; and the most abstruse subjects of human inquiry were perfectly easy to him.

His powers of conversation were uncommonly great, and no person could depart from his company without surprise at his attainments, and esteem for his modesty. He spoke Latin with great fluency and elegance ; and his remarks on classical obscurities astonished those who were critics by profession.

Such were his qualifications at the age of twenty-three, when neither his studies, his thoughts, nor connexions, were directed to any particular profession, an unfortunate circumstance, which prevented his being useful to mankind.

His friends, indeed, were extremely solicitous for his welfare ; and, from their regard for his various merits, wished to see him placed in some respectable situation. At this period his father gave up his school, and converted his house into an asylum for lunatics. He conceived, and so did his friends, that his son's abilities would have been of great service to him in this undertaking.

But herein they were disappointed ; for though no one was more disposed to do good, nor any person less inclined to dissipa-

tion than he was, yet he could not be brought to confine himself to one object.

In 1780, Dr. Tucker, Dean of Gloucester, who greatly respected him, offered to send him at his own expense to the University of Oxford. This generous proposition was gratefully accepted, and young Henderson was admitted a member of Pembroke College, and thus opened to new connections, and more extensive reputation.

At his first admission into this society, the singularity of his dress, and the formality of his manner, excited some degree of ridicule; but the richness of his intellect, and the urbanity of his temper, soon removed these unfavourable impressions, and no person in the University was more universally courted and respected than John Henderson.

Of his academical pursuits little can be said: for what others go to learn, he carried with him. He might indeed make improvements there on what he had previously acquired, but the foundations of knowledge were already deeply laid, and that at a period when other young men are but just gaining the rudiments of learning.

It is however to be lamented that this extraordinary young man was contented with studying for himself alone; and, though so amply endowed with those mental riches which would have enabled him to shine in

any profession, he applied to none. It was the intention of his patron, and the general desire of all his friends, that he should embrace the ecclesiastical state, for which he was admirably fitted by his general studies, and by the piety and benevolence of his disposition.

Unhappily, however, he wanted steadiness, and never could fix to any certain point.

Thus his extensive acquirements and wonderful powers, from the want of a proper direction, withered away within the narrow circle of academic acquaintance. They excited, it is true, very general admiration, but they rendered no benefit to society.

Many persons of great learning, and some in elevated life, visited Oxford for the purpose of obtaining his acquaintance. The reports which they had heard of him were more than confirmed by their own observation; and, while they admired, they wished to be of service to him. Very advantageous offers were made to him; but he declined them all, and was contented with the situation in which he was placed, and the circle of select friends which his virtues and merits had contributed to form.

At length a change was observed in his appearance and some apprehensions were

entertained by himself that his dissolution was not far distant. Some months before that event happened, he said to a young person whom he had relieved from a threatening consumption by his prescriptions, "My dear friend, your cure in all human probability is now certain, and you will live ; but I shall die. Remember, to be pious is to be happy ; and to practise the moral virtues, is to become great.

Under the impression of this prospect, he appeared to abstract himself more and more from the world, from company, and from conversation. "He seemed to withdraw himself from mortals (says one who witnessed his concluding days,) as he was soon to converse with higher beings."

The same worthy friend says of him : "He was a meek sufferer through this world of misery ; a sincere and contrite penitent for time misspent, and talents misapplied ; a humble believer in Christ his saviour. I saw him in his last sufferings ; I heard his last words ; he languished under weakness extreme ; he laboured under most grievous pains ; he was wonderfully patient and resigned ; for he knew in whom he believed, and his hope was full of immortality. He prayed with uncommon fervour to his good God, even to Jesus Christ, in whom all his hopes were placed,

and 'without whom,' said he, 'Heaven would be no Heaven for me.' Death was the wished-for messenger, whom he earnestly expected. Three days before that awful event his pulse ceased to beat, and the sight of his eyes went from him ; the last struggle is over ; the bitterness of death is past. There was a humble dignity and composure in that hour of trial, worthy the man and the Christian. 'Let me die the death of the righteous ; and let my last end be like his.'"

He left this world for a better, the 2d day of November, 1788, and his remains were buried in St. George's church, Kingswood, amid the tears of numbers who, knowing his worth, attended to pay him their last respects.

Such was John Henderson, whose life presents this instructive lesson, that uncommon attainments, even though accompanied with great moral virtue, are gifts sent by Heaven to be usefully employed in the service of society.

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH.

It has justly been observed, that as art never made a poet, so nothing but nature can make a painter. There must be a native in-born genius to give any person a pre-eminence in these exquisite graces and accomplishments. It is, however, pleasing and instructive to mark the early bursts of genius which indicate the turn of mind, and lead men to marked distinction, either as elegant writers or artists.

Thomas Gainsborough, one of the most original painters ever produced in this or any other country, was a native of Sudbury in Suffolk, and born in 1727.

He discovered a very early propensity to drawing. Nature was his teacher, and the woods of Suffolk his academy! Here he would pass his mornings in solitude, making a sketch of an antiquated tree, a marshy brook, a few cattle, a shepherd and his flock, or any other casual objects that were presented. His genius appeared confined to landscape scenery, till accident furnished him with an opportunity of displaying his powers in representing the human countenance.



THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH.



Instead of sketching the elm, he, in the few moments before he was observed, made a sketch upon the rough board of the head of the man.

In the neighbourhood of his father lived a very respectable clergyman of the name of Coyte. With the sons of this gentleman young Gainsborough passed much of his time, and from the instructions of Mr. Coyte received considerable advantage. In one of these visits there happened a violent commotion in the family, on account of the clergyman's garden having been plundered of a very large quantity of wall-fruit ; and much pains was taken, but without effect, to discover the thief.

Young Gainsborough having risen one summer morning at an early hour, walked into the garden, to make a sketch of an old elm tree. He had seated himself in an obscure corner, and had just taken out his chalk to begin, when he observed a fellow's head peeping over the wall of the garden which was next the road, with an apparent intention of seeing whether the coast was clear. This changed the artist's object, and instead of sketching the elm, he, in the few moments before he was observed, made a sketch upon the rough board of the head of the man ; and so accurate was the resemblance, that he was immediately recognised to be the inhabitant of a neighbouring village ; and upon close inquiry, he proved to be the very fellow who had robbed the garden.

This drawing was shown all about the place, and made young Gainsborough to be considered as a genius above the common standard.

The young Coytes lent him their drawing books, and the boy showing extreme eagerness in this favourite pursuit, wandering through fields, meadows, and woods, in search of rural scenes, became the common talk of the neighbourhood ; and there not being any person in the country who could properly instruct him in his studies, at the age of thirteen he was sent to London, where he made his first essays in art, by modelling figures of cows, horses, and dogs, in which he attained great excellence.

He soon afterwards became a pupil of Mr. Gravelot, under whose instruction he drew most of the ornaments which decorated the illustrious portraits, so admirably engraved by Houbraken.

But some of his first efforts were small landscapes, which he frequently sold to the picture dealers at trifling prices. He afterwards engaged in painting portraits, and acquired universal reputation. His portraits are calculated to give effect at a distance ; and that effect is produced in so eminent a degree, that the picture may almost be mistaken for the original. But his greatest excellence lay in landscapes, animals, and figures, such as the rustic, shepherd's boy, wood-

man, and cottage girl, all of which he represented exactly according to nature.

His merit as a man was equal to his celebrity as an artist. He had a most feeling heart ; and one of his strongest propensities was to relieve poverty, wherever he found it to deserve a claim on his bounty. But his liberality was not confined to this ; he supported his indigent relatives and unfortunate friends, without showing any capricious partiality.

This worthy and ingenious man died in London, August 20th, 1788, and his remains were interred the week following in the church-yard of Kew.



ALEXANDER POPE.

Among those who have discovered a very early indication of great talents, the mature age of many has not answered the promising expectations of their youth ; but extraordinary as the powers of Pope appeared, even in his juvenile essays, he continued to improve during the greater part of his literary career, and he will ever rank as one of the first of

modern poets, whether of this or any other country.

At the birth of our author in 1688, his parents were engaged in business in London, where they resided till he was nearly twelve years of age; when they removed to Binfield, near Windsor. He was taught to read very early by an aunt, and he learned to write without any assistance, by copying printed books, which he executed with great neatness and exactness.

At eight years of age, he was placed under the tuition of one Taverner, a priest of the Romish persuasion, his family being of that religion. This instructor taught him the rudiments of the Latin and Greek languages together. He imbibed these elements of classical learning with the greatest facility; and the first sight of the poets discovered at once both the peculiar bent of his inclination and the excellency of his genius. He has himself declared, that the time of his beginning to write verses was so very early in life, that he could scarcely recall it to his memory. When he was but a child, his father would frequently set him to make English verses. It seems the old gentleman was difficult to be pleased, and would oblige the lad to correct them again and again: and when at last he approved them, he took great pleasure in the perusal, saying, "These are good rhymes."

These early praises of a tender and respected parent, co-operating with the natural inclinations of the son, may possibly be the causes that fixed our young bard in the resolution of becoming eminent in the art of poesy.

About this time, accidentally meeting with Ogilby's translation of Homer, he was so much struck with the force of the story, that notwithstanding the insipidity of the versification, Ogilby became a favourite book. Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, translated by Sandys, next fell in his way ; the perusal of which yielded him so much pleasure, that he spoke of it with delight all his life after.

From his private tutor, he was sent to a school at Twyford, near Winchester, whence he was removed to another at Hyde Park Corner. He was now about ten years of age, and being sometimes taken to the play-house, the sight of theatrical representations afforded him so much delight, that he turned the principal events in Homer's *Iliad* into a kind of play, made up of a number of speeches from Ogilby's translation, connected by verses of his own composition. He persuaded the upper boys to act this piece, and the master's gardener performed the part of Ajax.

In the meantime, however, he was so unfortunate as to lose, under his two last mas-

ters, a great part of what he had learned from the first.

At the age of twelve years he retired with his parents to Binfield, in Windsor Forest, where his father had purchased a small estate. Here our poet was placed under another priest, of whom he learned only to construe a little of Tully's Offices. Dissatisfied with his instructor, young Pope resolved to be his own master. He accordingly formed a plan of study for himself, which he completed with little other incitement, than the desire of excellence.

His primary and principal purpose was to be a poet ; and he accordingly read with avidity the writings of Spenser, Waller, and Dryden ; but on the first sight of Dryden, he abandoned the rest, and resolved to make that writer his model. So great, indeed, was his veneration for his instructor, that he persuaded his friends to take him to the coffee-house which Dryden frequented, and pleased himself greatly with having only seen that illustrious poet. Dryden died in 1701, before Pope had attained his twelfth year ; so early must he, therefore, have felt the power of harmony and the zeal of genius. Who does not wish that Dryden could have known the value of the homage that was paid him, and have foreseen the greatness of his young admirer ?

The earliest of Pope's productions is his "Ode to Solitude," which is a pleasing little piece, written before the author was twelve years of age. His time was now wholly engrossed in reading and writing. As he read the classics, he amused himself with translating them; and at fourteen he made a version of the first book of "The Thebais of Statius," which, with some revision, he afterwards published. If he had no assistance, he must have been a considerable proficient in the Latin tongue. By "Dryden's Fables," he was tempted to try his own skill in giving Chaucer a more fashionable appearance; and accordingly he turned some of his antiquated tales into modern English and polished versification. He likewise translated the "Epistle of Sappho to Phaon," from Ovid; and wrote some other small pieces, which were afterwards printed. He sometimes imitated the English poets, and professed to have written at fourteen his poem upon Silence, after Rochester's "Nothing."

He had now formed his versification, and the smoothness of his numbers surpassed the original; but this is a small part of his praise; he discovers such an acquaintance both with human and public affairs, as is not easily conceived to have been attainable by a boy of fourteen, in his poem on "Windsor Forest."

The next year he was desirous of opening to himself new sources of knowledge, by becoming acquainted with modern languages ; and he accordingly removed to London, that he might study French and Italian, which, as he desired nothing more than to read them, were, by diligent application, soon accomplished.

He then returned to Binfield, and delighted himself with his own poetry, trying his genius in various styles of composition, and on many subjects. He wrote a comedy, a tragedy, and an epic poem ; thinking, as he himself confesses, that he was the greatest genius of his age. Self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings. He, indeed, who forms an opinion of himself in solitude, without knowing the powers of other men, is very liable to error ; but it was the felicity of Pope to rate himself at his real value. Most of his puerile productions were, by his maturer judgment, afterwards destroyed. " Alexander," the epic poem, was burnt by the persuasion of Bishop Atterbury. The tragedy was founded on the legendary tale of St. Genevieve ; and of the comedy we have no account. Concerning his other studies it is related that he translated Tully " On Old Age ;" and that, besides books of poetry and criticism, he read Temple's " Essays," and Locke " On Human Understanding." His

reading, though his favourite authors are not known, appears to have been sufficiently extensive ; for his early pieces show, with sufficient evidence, his knowledge of books.

Before he was sixteen, he was introduced to Sir William Trumbull, a statesman of eminence, who resided near Binfield. That gentleman was so pleased with his young visiter that he became his most zealous and intimate friend. Such a connection between sixty and sixteen is not very common ; and the circumstance reflects, in this instance, equal honour on both parties. Age is generally cautious and reserved with respect to the literary pretensions of youth ; and young persons are but too apt to slight, if not despise the salutary counsels and friendly converse of their elders. Mr. Pope wisely knew how to value and cherish the acquaintance of persons more advanced in the world and experienced than himself ; and his intimacy and correspondence with Sir William only ended with that gentleman's life.

Another learned and valuable friend of our author was Mr. Walsh, gentleman of the horse to Queen Anne, and the author of several ingenious pieces in prose and verse. By his advice Mr. Pope profited considerably, especially in that attention to correctness in poetical composition, which had been universally neglected by English poets.

At the age of sixteen, Pope wrote pastorals, which were shown to the most eminent critics of the age, by whom they were read, as they well deserved, with admiration, and many praises were bestowed upon them and the preface, which is both elegant and learned in a high degree.

Before he was twenty, he produced his "Essay of Criticism," which may safely be pronounced his master-piece. The excellence of the poem, and the youth of the author, filled every person with amazement. So great a knowledge of the world, with such maturity of judgment and penetration into human nature are herein displayed, that the acutest critics of the age could hardly account for the literary phenomenon. The greatest geniuses in painting, as well as poesy, are generally observed not to have produced any considerable works till the age of thirty ; whereas this admirable performance was written almost before the author had attained to manhood. To account for this, however, it has been judiciously observed, that to great delicacy of constitution were added a strict purity of manners and temperature of life in Mr. Pope, which preserved him from that dissipation which too frequently injures genius and corrupts the judgment.

From this period the poet went on in his literary career, continuing to gather new lau-

rels, and to acquire the most powerful friends. His works have been the delight of other nations, as well as of his own ; and his translation of Homer may be justly said to have given new beauties to the Prince of poets.

Mr. Pope died in 1744, and was buried at Twickenham, in the same vault with his parents, to whose memory he had erected a monument.



JAMES FERGUSON.

THIS eminent experimental philosopher, mechanic, and astronomer, was born of poor parents at Keith, a small village in Banffshire, in Scotland, in the year 1710.

His extraordinary genius began to expand itself at a very early age. He learned to read before any suspicion was entertained of his acquirement, by listening to the instructions which his father gave to his elder brother, and by applying to a neighbouring old woman for assistance, when any difficulties occurred.

When his father had, to his agreeable surprise, discovered the progress, which, by these

means, he had made, he gave him such further instructions as were in his power, and then taught him to write. Afterwards he sent him for about three months to the grammar school at Keith. When James Ferguson was only about seven or eight years of age, he began to conceive a taste for mechanics, by reflecting on the use which he saw his father make of a lever, in raising the roof of his house, which wanted repairs. He soon brought himself to understand the principles of that mechanical power ; and immediately afterwards his genius suggested to him the advantages which would arise from converting it into the form of a wheel and axle.

By means of a turning lathe, belonging to his father, and a little knife, he constructed such machines as answered his purpose in illustrating these advantages ; and, imagining that he had made an original discovery, he wrote a short account of them, accompanied with figures, sketched out by his pen, over which he exulted with not a little complacency. But upon showing this account to a gentleman in the neighbourhood, he found that his supposed discovery had been familiar to the world long before he was born, and he was convinced of it by reference to a printed book on mechanics. Notwithstanding that his pleasure received considerable alloy from this information, he had still the satisfaction

of finding that his account, as far as he had carried it, agreed perfectly with the principles of mechanics laid down in the printed book. From this time he possessed a strong propensity to improve in his acquaintance with that science. As his father, however, could not afford to maintain him while employed only in such pursuits, he was placed out with a neighbour, to tend his sheep, in which employment he continued some years. During this time he began to study astronomy, devoting a considerable part of the night to the contemplation of the stars, while he amused himself in the daytime with constructing models of spinning-wheels, mills, and such other pieces of machinery as he happened to see.

He was afterwards placed as a servant to a farmer, who treated him with great kindness, and encouraged him to go on with his astronomical studies, often working for him himself in his ordinary business, that the lad might be enabled to make fair copies in the daytime, of his observations which he had made and marked down on paper during the night relative to the apparent distances of particular stars from each other, according to their respective positions.

The observatory of young Ferguson was the open field, in which he lay down on his back, with a blanket wrapped about him ; and his only instrument was a thread with

small beads strung upon it, which he stretched at arms length between his eye and the stars, sliding the beads till they hid the particular stars from his eye.

Through the kindness of this master also, he obtained the patronage and assistance of some neighbouring gentlemen ; one of whom, when the time of his servitude had expired, took him to his house, where his butler, who was a man of extraordinary abilities and acquirements, taught him decimal arithmetic, with some algebra, and began likewise to instruct him in the elements of geometry.

Ferguson had before learned vulgar arithmetic himself, by the help of books.

To his inexpressible grief, he lost his tutor just as he had entered upon the study of geometry, and upon that melancholy event he returned home to his father.

His benevolent tutor had bestowed upon him a present of Gordon's Geographical Grammar. From the description of the globes and their use, contained in that book, without any figure, he made a globe in three weeks at his father's house, which he turned out of a piece of wood, covered it with paper, and delineated upon it a map of the world ; he then added the meridian ring, and horizon, covered them with paper, and graduated them ; and he had the happiness to find that he could solve the common problems of

geography by this instrument, which was the first of the kind he ever saw.

But his father's narrow circumstances again obliged him to seek a livelihood by service, which he entered into at first with a miller, and afterwards with a farmer ; from both of whom he received such harsh treatment and ill-usage, that his health was greatly impaired, and he was for some time rendered incapable of enduring any laborious exertion. To amuse himself while he was in this weak state, he made a wooden clock, which went tolerably well, and then a wooden watch, after having been once shown the inside of such a piece of mechanism.

The ingenuity which these works displayed, now obtained for him further countenance and encouragement from some of the neighbouring gentry, who employed him in cleaning clocks and in drawing patterns for ladies' needle-work ; by which means he got so much money, that he began to think himself growing very rich, and had the pleasure of occasionally supplying the wants of his father.

Having discovered by the copies which he took, with pen and ink, of some prints and pictures, that he possessed a taste for drawing, some of his friends and patrons made attempts to have him brought up to the profession of a painter ; but the money requisite

for that purpose was more than, by their solicitations on his behalf, they were able to procure.

Having received, however, some instructions for drawing with pencils, he was encouraged to apply himself to the drawing of portraits from the life, on vellum, with Indian ink.

In this art he soon acquired a great facility, and had as much employment as he could possibly manage, so that it became his principal support for many years, while he was pursuing more serious studies.

After staying some years longer in Scotland, he came to London in 1743, with letters of recommendation to many scientific persons, from whom he experienced much kindness, and was introduced to the Royal Society. He afterwards read lectures in experimental philosophy, with great reputation, and published several works of considerable merit, particularly his "Astronomy Explained, upon Sir Isaac Newton's Principles," which has passed through several editions, in quarto and octavo. Mr. Ferguson's merits and celebrity occasioned his being introduced to his late Majesty, when Prince of Wales, who heard lectures from him, and on coming to the throne, settled upon him a pension. He was also chosen a fellow of the Royal Society, with the uncommon favour of being ex-

cused the payment of the admission fee, and the usual annual contributions.

Mr. Ferguson was a man of mild, unassuming manners ; benevolent, meek, humble, and courteous ; and his whole life was an example of resignation and christian piety. It is also said of him, " that philosophy seemed to produce in him only diffidence and urbanity, a love for mankind and for his Maker." Mr. Ferguson died in the year 1776.

HORATIO NELSON.

It is pleasing to trace the early proofs of an heroic and adventurous spirit, which, springing up spontaneously by its own vigour, at length acquires universal renown, and renders the possessor the darling of his country.

Few names in the naval annals of this great empire will rank in the same scale with the illustrious Nelson. In valour and judgment none excelled him : in humanity to his enemies, and benevolence to his people, he was particularly distinguished ; in the number and magnitude of actions wherein he was engaged, he appears to have been unequalled ;

and in the glory which attended his fall, he stands without a rival.

He was the son of a clergyman in Norfolk, and was born at the rectory of Burnham Thorp, in that county, in 1758.

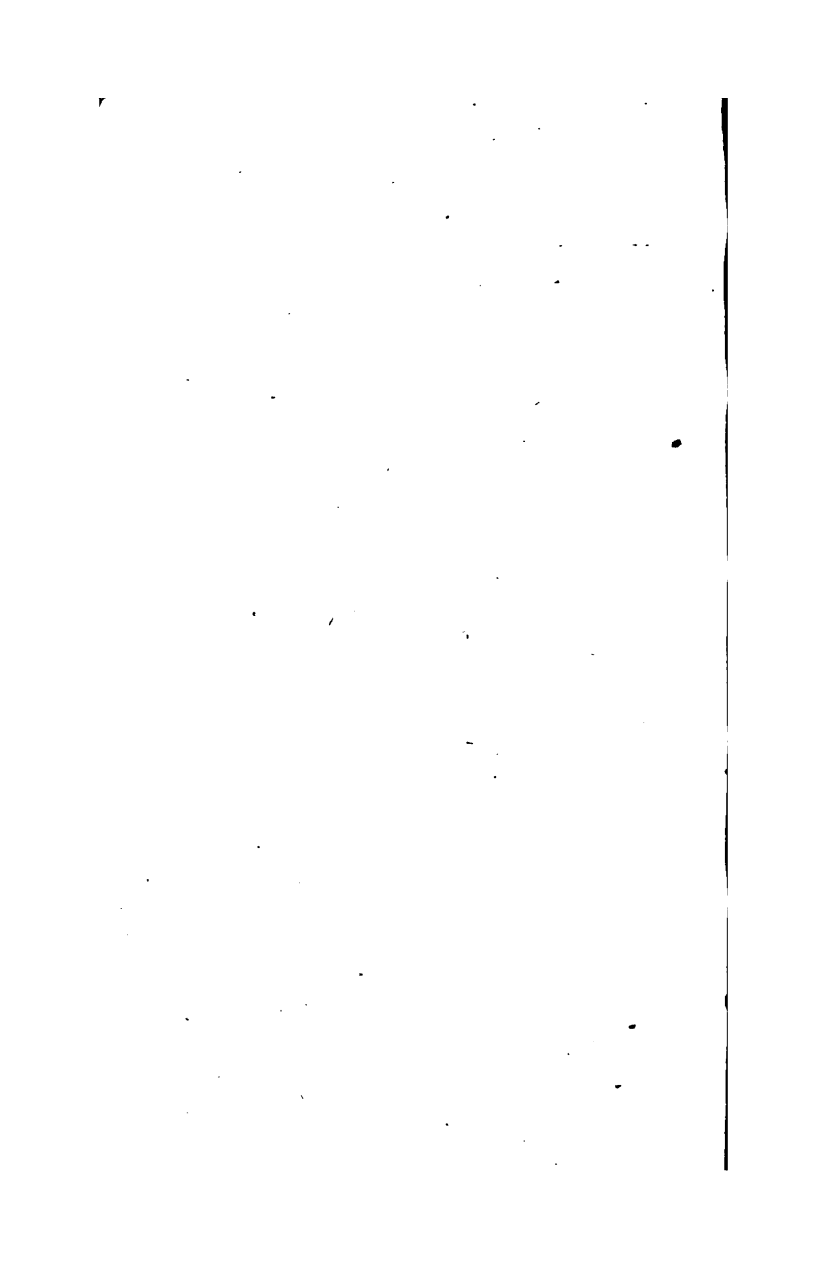
In the tender years of infancy he doubtless exhibited to the eye of an observant parent many traits of that intrepidity of disposition which in after-life formed the most conspicuous part of his character. But of these few have been related. The following anecdote has, however, been preserved. Being on a visit, when a child, at his grandfather's, he one day went out a bird's nesting with a companion of nearly the same age as himself. The hour of dinner arrived, but Horatio was missing. The old lady became alarmed, and despatched messengers in different directions to search for him. The young fugitives were at length discovered under a hedge, counting over the spoils of the day. When conducted home, Horatio's grandmother began to scold him for being absent without permission, and concluded with saying, "I wonder fear did not drive you home." To which he replied, "Madam, I never saw fear."

Our young hero did not receive a finished education; but what he wanted in learning he made up afterwards by natural good sense and talents aided by early experience and deep reflection.

HORATIO NELSON.



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In 1770, being then twelve years of age, he was taken from school by his uncle Captain Suckling, who made him midshipman on board his own ship, the *Raisable*, of 64 guns. He afterwards went to the West Indies in a merchant ship, whereby he acquired an aversion to the Royal Navy. But his uncle took pains to conquer this unreasonable prejudice, and young Horatio resumed his former station, in which he became an excellent seaman, and had the command of the long-boat.

Early in 1773, two vessels were fitted out by Government for a voyage of discovery towards the north pole. The object of this expedition was to ascertain how far it was possible to sail in that direction, to decide the long agitated question concerning the practicability of a north-east passage to the Pacific Ocean, and to make besides such astronomical observations as might prove beneficial to navigation.

The *Race-horse* and *Carcass* bomb-vessels were fitted out for this hazardous voyage; the command of the former was given to Captain Phipps, afterwards Lord Mulgrave, and of the latter to Captain, since Admiral Lutwidge. A voyage in which much was to be seen and learned, excited the curiosity and ardent spirit of young Nelson, and filled him with an irresistible desire to share in it. The dangers

they were likely to endure only served to stimulate him the more ; and though positive orders had been given that no boys should be admitted on board, yet he was so earnest in his solicitations, that Captain Lutwidge granted his request, and received him on board his ship.

They sailed on the 2d of June, and, during the voyage, our young seaman conducted himself in such a manner as to obtain the particular notice of Captain Phipps, who formed a high opinion of his character. On the 31st of July, the two vessels were in a most perilous situation off the Seven Islands, lying to the north of Spitzbergen, in latitude 80 degrees, 14 minutes.

Here the two ships were becalmed in a vast basin, surrounded on all sides by islands of ice of various forms : the weather clear, the sun gliding over the circumambient ice, which was low, smooth, and even, covered with snow : excepting where the pools of water on part of the surface appeared crystalline with the new-formed ice, the small space of sea in which they were confined was perfectly smooth. After fruitless attempts to force a way through the fields of ice, their limits were perpetually contracted by its closing, till at length each vessel became immovably fixed. The smooth extent of surface was soon lost : the pressure of the pieces of

ice by the violence of the swell caused them to gather in heaps ; fragment rose upon fragment, till in many places they were higher than the main-yard. The movements of the vessels were tremendous and involuntary, in conjunction with the surrounding ice, agitated by the currents. The water shoaled to fourteen fathoms. The grounding of the ice or of the ships would have been equally fatal : as the force of the ice might have crushed them to atoms, or have lifted them out of the water, and upset them ; or have left them suspended on the summits of the pieces of ice at a tremendous height, exposed to the fury of the winds, or to the risk of being dashed in pieces by the failure of their frozen dock.

It was in a similar situation that Sir Hugh Willoughby, an enterprising English navigator, perished with all his crew, in 1553.

—— Miserable they,
Who, here entangled in the gathering ice
Take their last look of the descending sun ;
While, full of death, and fierce with tenfold frost,
The long long night, incumbent o'er their heads,
Falls horrible. Such was the Briton's fate,
As with first prow (what have not Britons dared ?)
He for the passage sought, attempted since
So much in vain, and seeming to be shut
By jealous Nature with eternal bars.
In these fell regions, in Arzina caught,

And to the stony deep his idle ship
Immediate seal'd, he with his hapless crew,
Each full-exerted at his several task,
Froze into statues ; to the cordage glued
The sailor, and the pilot to the helm. THOMSON.

In this dilemma the ships' companies endeavoured to cut a passage to the westward, by sawing through immense fields of ice, but with so little success, that their utmost efforts, for a whole day, could not move the vessels more than three hundred yards.

In this dreadful state they remained nearly five days, during which young Nelson, whose active spirit rose superior to all danger, obtained, after repeated solicitations, the command of a four-oared cutter, with twelve men, for the purpose of exploring channels, and breaking the ice. On the 10th of August, a brisk wind springing up, effected their deliverance from this precarious situation ; and Captain Phipps, finding it impracticable to penetrate further to the northward, returned to the harbour of Smeerenberg, on the coast of Spitzbergen.

The coolness and courage of our young hero amid these dreadful scenes appears to the greatest advantage, from the following anecdote.

During one of the nights, which in those latitudes are generally clear, Horatio, not-

withstanding the intense bitterness of the cold, was missing from the ship.

Immediate search was made after him, but in vain, and every person on board gave him up for lost. When the rays of the rising sun illumined the horizon, he was discovered by the astonished crew at a considerable distance, armed with a single musket, in eager pursuit of a prodigiously large bear. The lock being injured, his piece would not go off, and he pursued the shaggy animal till he had tired him, and knocked him on the head with the butt end of his musket. Being reprimanded by Captain Lutwidge on his return, for quitting the ship, and asked, in a severe tone, what motive could induce him to attempt such a rash undertaking, the young hero replied, with great simplicity, "I wished, sir, to get the skin for my father!" So great was his courage, and so affectionate were his sentiments for his worthy parent; to whom, in all the succeeding periods of his life, this illustrious man ever showed the most dutiful attentions. Of the subsequent events of Nelson's history, it is impossible here to speak: they are indelibly engraved in the grateful remembrance of his country; they will form some of the proudest trophies of her glory; and will be held up for ever as examples, that every "Englishman may learn to do his duty."

ANNE BAYNARD.

ANNE, only daughter of Dr. Edward Baynard, a gentleman of respectable and ancient family, and fellow of the College of Physicians in London, was born at Preston in Lancashire in 1672. Her mother was the daughter of Robert Rawlinson, esq. of Corke, in the same county. Dr. Baynard, perceiving in his daughter the promise of superior talents, assisted their development by a liberal education. The rapid progress and improvement made by Anne in different branches of science and learning, did credit to the judgment of her father, and justified the promise of her early years. She died prematurely, in the twenty-fifth year of her age, June 12, 1697. The following particulars of her character and endowments are extracted from the introduction to her funeral sermon, preached by John Prude, M. A., at the parish church of Barnes.

By this gentleman we are informed, that she was well acquainted with philosophy, with astronomy, mathematics, and physics; that she was "not only conversant with these sciences, but a mistress of them, and that to such a degree as few of her sex had ever at-

tained ;" that she was familiar with the writings of the ancients in their original languages. "At the age of twenty-three," says he, "she had the knowledge of a profound philosopher." In metaphysical learning, we are also told, "she was a nervous and subtle disputant." She took great pains to perfect herself in the Greek language, that she might have the pleasure of reading in their native purity the works of St. Chrysostom. Her compositions in the Latin, which were various, were written in a pure and elegant style. She possessed an acute and comprehensive mind, an ardent thirst of knowledge, and a retentive memory. She was accustomed to declare 'that it was a sin to be content with a little knowledge.'

To the endowments of the mind she added the virtues of the heart ; she was modest, humble, chaste, and benevolent, exemplary in her whole conduct, and in every relative duty. She was pious and constant in her devotions, both public and private ; beneficent to the poor ; simple in her manners ; retired, and perhaps somewhat too rigid, in her notions and habits. It was her custom to lay aside a certain portion of her income, which was not large, for charitable uses ; to this she added an ardent desire and strenuous efforts for the mental and moral improvement of those within her circle and influence.

About two years previous to her death, her spirits seem to have been impressed with an idea of her early dissolution ; a sentiment which first suggested itself to her mind while walking alone, among the tombs, in a church-yard. On her death-bed she earnestly entreated the minister who attended her, that he would exhort all the young people of his congregation to the study of wisdom and knowledge as the means of moral improvement and real happiness. 'I could wish,' says she, 'that all young persons might be exhorted to the practice of virtue, and to increase their knowledge by the study of philosophy ; and more especially to read the great book of nature, wherein they may see the wisdom and power of the Creator, in the order of the universe, and in the production and preservation of all things. That women are capable of such improvements, which will better their judgments and understandings, is past all doubt, would they but set about it in earnest, and spend but half of that time in study and thinking, which they do in visits, vanity, and folly. It would introduce a composure of mind, and lay a solid basis for wisdom and knowledge, by which they would be better enabled to serve God, and to help their neighbours.'

The following character is given of this lady in Mr. Collier's Historical Dictionary :

"Anne Baynard, for her prudence, piety, and learning, deserves to have her memory perpetuated ; she was not only skilled in the learned languages, but in all manner of literature and philosophy, without vanity or affectation. Her words were few, well-chosen, and expressive. She was seldom seen to smile, being rather of a reserved and stoical disposition : their doctrine, in most parts, seeming agreeable to her natural temper, for she never read or spoke of the Stoics but with a kind of delight. She had a contempt of the world, especially of the finery and gaiety of life. She had a great regard and veneration for the sacred name of God, and made it the whole business of her life to promote his honour and glory ; and the great end of her study was to encounter atheists and libertines, as may appear from some severe satires written in the Latin tongue, in which language she had great readiness and fluency of expression ; which made a gentleman of no small parts and learning say of her—

*Annam gens Solymæa, Annam gens Belgica jactat,
At superas Annas, Anna Baynarda, duas.*

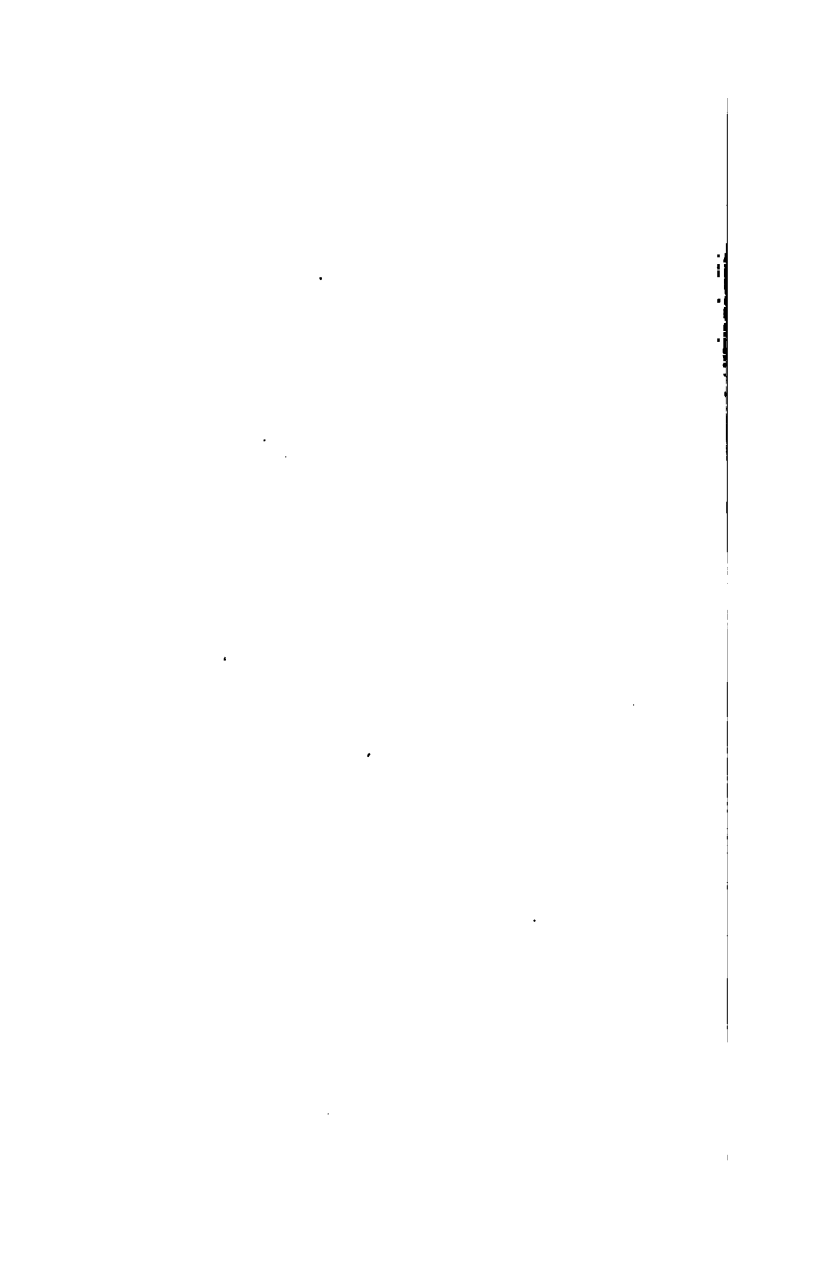
*'Fam'd Solyma her Anna boasts,
In sacred writ renown'd ;
Another Anna's high deserts
Through Belgia's coasts resound :*

*But Britain can an Anna show,
That shines more bright than they ;
Wisdom and piety in her
Sheds each its noblest ray.*

Anne Baynard died at Barnes, in the county of Surry, in 1697, and was buried at the east end of the church-yard, where a small monument is erected to her memory.

THE END.

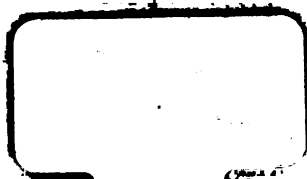




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